

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023 - 2024



## Acknowledgement

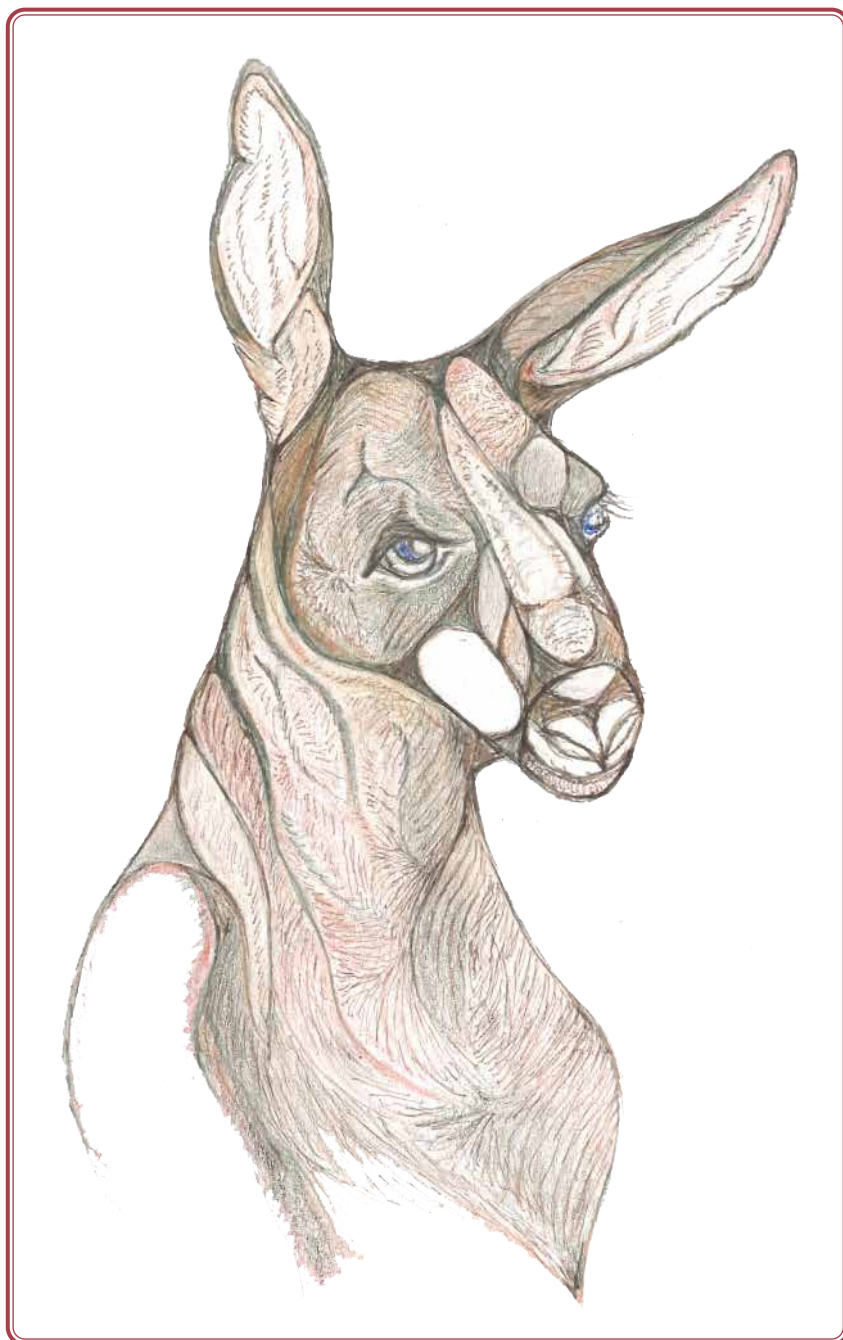
The Association of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies NT (AADANT) acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country and recognise the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities.

We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and to Elders past and present.

## Front Cover

The front cover is a hand drawn artwork by Amanda Davies, Board Secretary AADANT.

Inspired by living and working in the bush in New South Wales and the Northern Territory, kangaroos represent strength and endurance.



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# Chairperson and Board Report

On behalf of the AADANT Board I once again thank our members for their ongoing support and investment in the peak AOD body for the Northern Territory. We thank our primary funder, the Northern Territory Government Department of Health for their ongoing financial support, as well as the Commonwealth Department of Health and the Northern Territory Primary Health Network for their contributions to our work.

I extend my thanks to Carli Finch and Katie Gregory for their work this financial year for AADANT. While we were sad to farewell Katie in June of 2024, we are grateful for the many years she has supported AADANT in the communications role. Carli has continued to upskill and expand her support repertoire - she is a face and voice that AADANT members and Board know and appreciate.

Stephanie Holmes has settled well into the role of Executive Officer, building relationships across the sector and working to develop some sound policy positions based on member feedback. Steph has worked her way across the Territory conducting member visits and providing support, training and networking opportunities. This will continue over the next twelve months.

I thank my fellow Board of Directors, Vice-Chair Prof James Smith (Flinders), Secretary Dr Amanda Davies (360Edge), Steve Versteegh (FORWAARD), Richard Michell (CAAAPU), Debbie Borden (Kalano), Treasurer Kerri Diamond (Bushmob) and Jill Smith (Skills Based Director). They have continued to provide dedicated, evidence-based and considered advice, support and action. It is a highly skilled Board, and I am privileged to be a part of such a passionate and expert group.

The challenges for our sector continue, with workforce shortages, weather events and social commentary impacting our members over the course of the year. AADANT has listened to the members and developed some key policy priorities for the NT, including the development of an Alcohol Action Plan and Drug Strategy, education campaigns, implementation of the Riley Review, taking an evidence-based approach to any proposed mandatory treatment, and responding to AOD as a health issue, rather than a justice issue. AADANT will also continue to prioritise workforce development to grow and build upon the NT AOD workforce.

The AADANT conference in May was an outstanding success, with tickets fully sold out. Steph, Carli and Katie pulled the event together marvelously, this time hosting the first CEO networking event as part of the conference agenda. Mel Walker from AADC was our wonderful convener once again and the event was a successful two days of networking, information sharing, learning and of course, the AADANT awards ceremony.

AADANT intends to spend the coming year developing and implementing our Strategic Plan, connecting with and supporting our membership, and ensuring we are best placed to provide support and advice to the broader AOD sector.

I look forward to a rewarding year ahead for AADANT.



Eloise Page  
Chairperson



**AADC**

*How do we advocate in line with our national strategic priorities? 2. Events*

- Advocate for the implementation of the National Strategic Priorities
- Advocate for the implementation of the National Strategic Priorities
- Advocate for the implementation of the National Strategic Priorities
- Advocate for the implementation of the National Strategic Priorities
- Advocate for the implementation of the National Strategic Priorities

*Speaker: [Name]*

**AADCANT**  
Source: Climate Action Network

**Hilton**

# Executive Officer Report

I am pleased to share with you the significant strides we have made over the past year in our mission to address alcohol and other drug (AOD) related issues in the Northern Territory (NT) during my first 12 months in the role.

The year has been characterised by both challenges and triumphs. We have worked tirelessly to advocate for policies, provide essential services, and supporting our members to advocate for those affected by alcohol and other drugs. Our collective efforts have led to meaningful progress, and I am very pleased with the resilience and dedication demonstrated by our team and members.

Our accomplishments would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our Board members, our members, government agencies, funders/partners and the broader community. I would like to extend a special thanks to the Northern Territory Government, Primary Health Network and the Department of Health for their continued support and collaboration. Their partnerships have been instrumental in advancing our initiatives and ensuring we can effectively service our members who support those in need.

## A New Vision and Mission

AADANT's new vision, mission and guiding principles – focussing on leadership, excellence, cultural responsiveness, collaboration, innovation, accountability and respect - have provided a sound anchor for pursuing practical and meaningful initiatives to enhance outcomes in the NT AOD sector.

Our strategic goals and objectives have focused on enhancing leadership and networking, sector development and amplifying our voice and influence.

## Strategic Goals and Objectives



## Key Achievements

### Leadership and Networking

AADANT conducted five member surveys throughout the year to gather critical feedback, helping to shape our strategic initiatives and priorities. We actively participated in various AOD forums across the Northern Territory, including the AOD Peaks Network meeting, the Cannabis Regulation Discussion, and the Policy Officers Network meeting. These efforts culminated in the successful AADANT Professional Development Forum and AOD Sector Awards, showcasing our commitment to leadership development and productive networking. Additionally, our outreach visits to members reinforced our dedication to building strong, collaborative relationships within the sector.

### Sector Training and Development

We invested significantly in training and workforce development, conducting multiple training sessions based on identified skill needs from member surveys. Comprehensive workforce education packages were developed, focusing on governance issues and specific initiatives tailored for members in the youth residential sector. Key training areas included medication management and dispensing skills, comorbidity, culturally responsive practice, and specimen collection for AOD screening. We also developed and distributed a suite of resources to support frontline workers, including a new best practice guide on dual diagnosis, and facilitated various community meetings to further enhance skill-building and knowledge sharing. In addition, we facilitated a range of community meetings.

## Voice and Influence

Our advocacy for better policies and increased support for individuals affected by AOD continued to gain momentum. We leveraged insights from member surveys and forums to enhance our communication channels, updating our social media platforms, website, LinkedIn, and newsletters. The launch of a Member Spotlight in October aimed to celebrate the achievements and contributions of our members, further strengthening member and community partnerships.



**67%** members strongly agreed NT NGO AOD better off due to AADANT activity

### Advocacy and Policy

AADANT's advocacy efforts included robust engagement with Northern Territory Ministers, notably Hon Selena Uibo and Hon Brent Potter. AADANT made significant contributions to policy discussions.

At the Territory level, AADANT represented AOD sector in forums including:

- the conduct of the First Symposium Series: 'Listening to mob and other colleagues talk on alcohol and drug use and health';
- a contribution to harmful product marketing reform; and
- participation in a research study on factors affecting community treatment orders.

At the National level, through the national peak organisation, AADANT represented the NT AOD sector through various submissions and policy development activities including:

- the development of a position statement and guide on best practices for AOD services in media engagement and lived and living experience storytelling;
- a submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs Inquiry into Excess Mortality;
- a submission to Select Committee on Cost of Living, focusing on cost-of-living pressures and impacts for both the AOD workforce and people who use AOD;
- a submission to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide;
- a submission to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee Inquiry into the Therapeutic and Other Goods Legislation (Vaping Reforms) Bill, which resulted in changes to the draft Bill that decreased criminalisation risks for people who use vapes;
- a pre-budget submission to the 2024-25 Federal Budget;
- submissions to the dual Department of Social Services Not-for-Profit Sector Development Blueprint and Stronger, More Diverse and Independent Community Sector consultations;
- a submission to the Australian National Audit Office's audit of the effectiveness of the Department of Health and Aged Care's performance management of the Primary Health Network program;

- a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) General Issues Inquiry and submission to the draft National Autism Strategy;
- a submission to the Standing Committee into Employment, Education Training Inquiry into Perceptions and Status of Vocational Education and Training, highlighting the ongoing challenges for AOD sector training and workforce; and
- a media statement calling for expanded access to naloxone in prisons to protect against fatal overdoses from nitazenes and other synthetic opioids.

### **Programs and Services**

To enhance awareness of the impact of various programs and services and encourage continuous improvement, AADANT actively sought information from key members on success stories and case studies, data on service delivery and program outcomes, and information on innovative new initiatives. We continue to share insights from our members and do all we can to support high quality service provision from our members.

### **Collaboration and Partnerships**

Collaboration is vital to AADANT's success. We welcomed a new member Team Health and established a reciprocal membership agreement with the NT Council of Social Service. Its partnership with the NT Mental Health Coalition enabled collaborative support for both peak bodies.

Other significant collaborations included:

- Conducting professional development workshops through Amity.
- Supporting Banyan House in its impactful work within the community.
- Providing program and service delivery for Bushmob and youth support for the CAAPS Aboriginal Corporation.
- Engaging as a sitting member of the Northern Territory Government's AACARAC, the Alice Springs Detox Unit, and the Suicide Coordination Prevention Committee.
- Co-designing the Prompt Response Network, and
- Participating in the Local Drug Action Group and the Menzies School of Health Workforce Strengthening Project.

These partnerships and initiatives demonstrate AADANT's commitment to fostering a collaborative AOD sector dedicated to improving outcomes for individuals and communities affected by substance use.

## Financial Performance

AADANT has secured additional funding through a new agreement with the NT Government for the period 2024-2029. This funding has enabled AADANT to establish a solid financial foundation, resulting in a robust balance sheet.

We have taken proactive steps to review our expenses and ensure their sustainability. Additionally, we have invested in staff training to enhance our bookkeeping practices and transitioned to a new accounting firm that aligns better with our needs.

Our membership has grown with the addition of TeamHealth to AADANT. Membership fees have remained unchanged, and we take pride in offering services that continue to be relevant and provide great value for our members.

## Challenges and Lessons Learnt

Over the past year, AADANT has encountered several challenges, including an increased demand for support from our members, the closure of the Mission Australia Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Service, and the departure of a long-standing and experienced team member. These experiences have taught us valuable lessons in adaptability and resilience, both within our small team and in our interactions with members, guiding our future efforts and support.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our members, board, and staff. Their dedication and hard work are the foundation of our organization. I also wish to acknowledge our funding bodies and supporters for their ongoing commitment to our mission.

I look forward to building on our success in the year ahead and continuing our vital work in the AOD sector, consistent with the imminent release of our new Strategic Plan.

*Stephanie*

Stephanie Holmes  
Executive Officer

# Board Members

We are pleased to introduce the AADANT Board of Directors for 2023/24. Our Board Members bring a diverse range of skills, expertise, and experience from across the Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) sector. They provide valuable guidance as we pursue our mission and seek to support and strengthen the AOD workforce in the Northern Territory.



**Eloise Page**  
CEO, DASA  
Chairperson

Eloise has extensive experience in the AOD sector and has led our Board with strategic vision and dedication. Her leadership has been instrumental in ensuring AADANT remains a strong voice for the sector. Eloise has been working in leadership roles in Central Australia and North-Western Australia for twenty years, and holds qualifications in community sector leadership, AOD and mental health, governance, and human resources.



**Professor James Smith**  
Deputy Dean, Rural  
and Remote Health NT  
Flinders University  
Vice Chairperson

James is a Professor of Health and Social Equity with over 20 years' experience working in rural and remote health policy, practice and research. James has supported the Board in driving forward key initiatives, particularly at our Leadership Forum in May and by supporting the Executive Officer in meetings with Ministers.



**Kerri Diamond**  
CEO, Bushmob  
Treasurer (to August 2024)

With a strong financial background, Kerri has overseen the financial management of AADANT, ensuring sustainability and accountability across all operations. Kerri has been enjoying long service leave from her position as the CEO of Bushmob in Alice Springs.



**Dr Amanda Davies**  
Senior Consultant,  
360 Edge  
Secretary

Amanda has provided vital administrative and governance support to the Board, ensuring transparency and compliance with regulatory requirements. Amanda is President of the Northern Territory Aids and Hepatitis Council, a member of AADANT, a well-known and respected senior consultant with 360 Edge and has extensive experience and expertise in Alcohol and Other Drugs, including Lived Experience.



**Stephen Versteegh**  
EO, FORWAARD  
**Public Officer**

Steve is a specialist in apprenticeships and trainees, who holds qualifications in education, business, leadership and management, and HR. He has focused on supporting regional and remote services within the AOD sector and is one of the longest serving CEOs of an AOD residential service in the Top End.



**Richard Michell**  
CEO, CAAAPU  
**Committee Member**

Richard is a former Executive Officer for AADANT who is wholeheartedly committed to the sector and continues to support the work we do. Richard is the CEO of CAAAPU, in Alice Springs, and is always there to provide support and feedback to the Executive and contribute to the work of the Board.



**Deborah Borden**  
Program Director of  
Social Services, Kalano  
Community Association  
Incorporated  
**Committee Member**

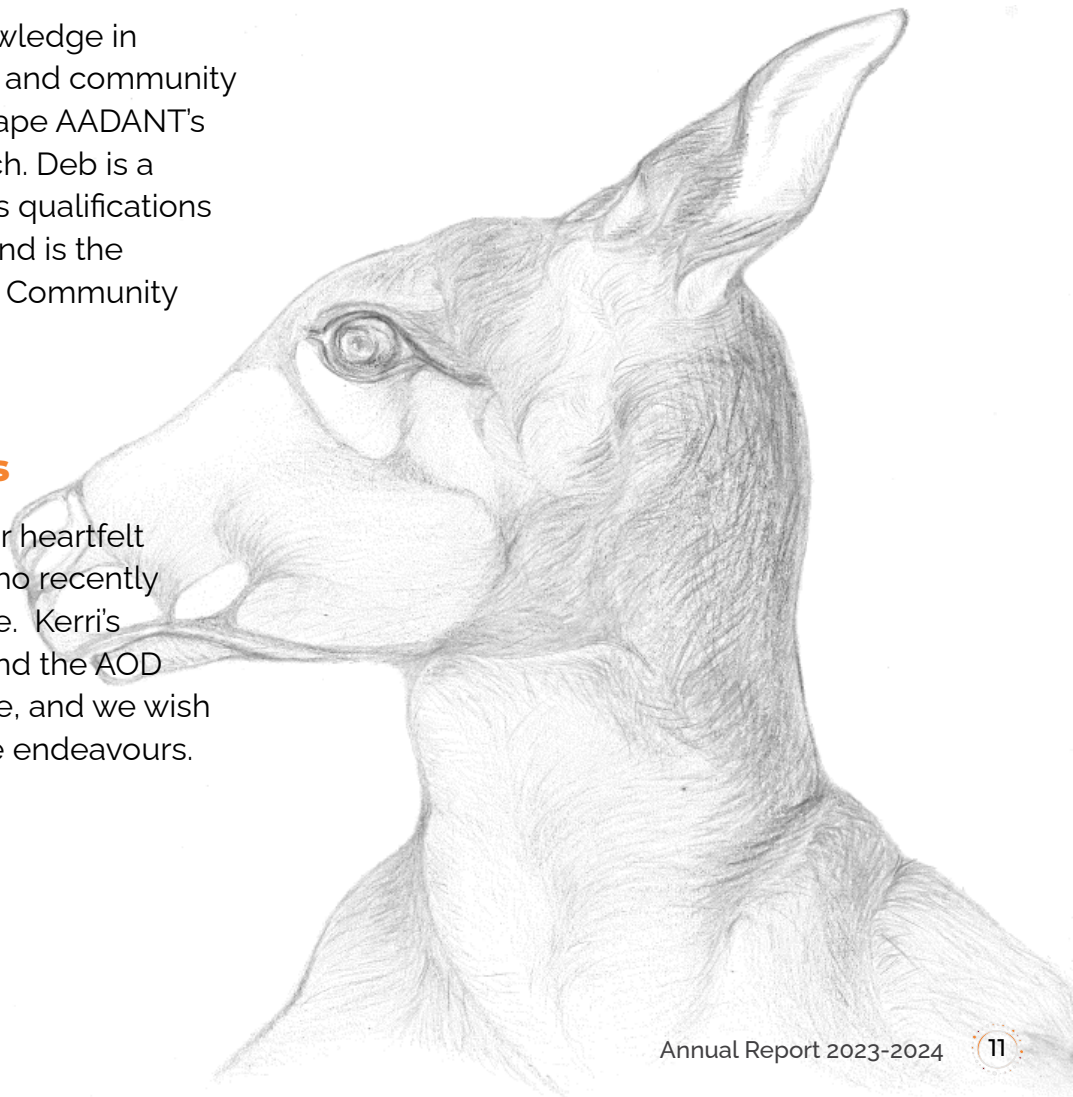
Deb brings a wealth of knowledge in clinical services, residential and community engagement, and helps shape AADANT's member-focussed approach. Deb is a Registered Nurse and holds qualifications in Public Health (Masters) and is the Program Director of Kalano Community Association Inc.



**Jillian Smith**  
Governance  
**Skills Based Member**

## Farewell and Thanks

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Kerri Diamond, who recently stepped down from her role. Kerri's contributions to AADANT and the AOD sector have been invaluable, and we wish her all the best in her future endeavours.



# AADANT Team



**Stephanie Holmes**  
Executive Officer



**Jillian Smith**  
Interim Executive Officer  
(April - August 2023)



**Katie Gregory**  
Coordination and  
Communications  
Manager



**Carli Finch**  
Finance and  
Administration Officer



**Jimmy Griffey**  
Capacity Building  
and Engagement  
Coordinator

## About AADANT

The Association of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies NT Incorporated (AADANT) is the peak body for Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) treatment services in the Northern Territory. As an independent, membership-driven, not-for-profit association, we work with our members to support and strengthen AOD service delivery for people who experience harmful substance use in the NT.

Our mission is to build and maintain a strong, sustainable and culturally diverse AOD sector that works together to reduce alcohol and other drug related harm across the Northern Territory. AADANT acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Land on which we live, work and walk.

### Our Mission

To be the leading voice of the Alcohol and Other Drugs sector in the NT by influencing policy, reducing stigma, building capabilities, and fostering positive change.

### Our Vision

To enable excellence throughout the NT Alcohol and Other Drugs sector.

### Our Guiding Principles

- Be culturally responsive, embracing diversity, equity and inclusivity
- Collaborate with generosity and purpose
- Foster innovation and creativity
- Demonstrate accountability through good governance and leadership
- Demonstrate and promote integrity and respect.

# AADANT Members

AADANT gratefully acknowledges the support, expertise and collaboration of our valued member organisations.

Without our membership base, we would be unable to deliver a range of services in a constructive, efficient and relevant manner.

Our members are listed below:



NTG East Arnhem and Top End  
Mental Health Alcohol and  
Other Drug Services



## Member Visits

Throughout 2023/24, AADANT prioritised engagement with our members across the Northern Territory to ensure ongoing collaboration, to identify challenges, and offer support. These visits were an integral part of strengthening our connection with local services and responding to the unique needs of each region across the NT.

### Darwin

We conducted several in-person visits to our Darwin-based members, discussing ongoing projects, service delivery, challenges, and potential areas for future collaboration. Key topics included workforce development, capacity building, and responding to more recent policy changes.

### Katherine

In Katherine, we held face-to-face meetings, conducted training sessions with our members, reviewed current programs, explored opportunities for collaboration between two member organisations, and offered tailored support. The meetings focused on addressing specific regional challenges, such as service accessibility and local community engagement.

### Alice Springs

We connected with our Alice Springs members via online and face-to-face meetings. Despite the remote format of some of our meetings, these sessions were highly productive, with a focus on building capacity, reviewing service models, supporting boards on governance, developing sustainable programs, and supporting service delivery in a challenging environment.

### Tenant Creek

Similarly, we engaged with our member from Tenant Creek online, addressing both immediate needs and long-term planning. The discussions centred around regional service delivery, particularly given the area's geographical isolation and resource constraints.

## Capacity Building and Engagement Coordinator

The Capacity Building and Engagement Coordinator plays a vital role in enhancing AADANT's member organizations' abilities to deliver high-quality, evidence-based services in the alcohol and other drugs (AOD) sector.

This position helps build the skills and resources of AADANT members so they can provide the best possible care and support to people dealing with alcohol and drug-related issues. The coordinator achieves this by organising training programs, workshops, conferences, and other learning opportunities for professionals in the AOD field.

### Key Responsibilities

- **Training and Development:** Organize workshops, training sessions, peer support groups and conferences to equip AOD service providers with effective practices to support their clients.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** Collaborate with external organisations and agencies to expand access to resources and expertise for our members.
- **Member Engagement:** Foster connections through networking opportunities, relevant information sharing, and feedback collection to continuously improve AADANT services.

By undertaking these activities, the coordinator ensures that AADANT members are equipped with the knowledge, skills and tools they need to deliver top-quality services in the AOD sector, ultimately benefiting organisations and the community generally.

## Achievements

This past year, our focus on collaboration, advocacy, and workforce development led to notable advancements in service delivery and community outcomes.

### 1. Sector Engagement and Collaboration

Throughout the year, AADANT maintained strong linkages within the AOD sector by actively participating in the Northern Territory AOD Network. Our quarterly meetings fostered collaborative efforts with key organisations, including:

- NTCOSS
- The Mental Health Coalition

These partnerships have enabled us to streamline advocacy and service delivery, ensuring a unified approach to the challenges faced by our sector.

Key meetings attended included:

- **Harm Reduction Advisory Group** – ongoing participation.
- **Dual Diagnosis Network Meeting** – ongoing engagement.
- **NTCOSS CEO Network Forum** – regular participation in discussions.
- **State and Territory AOD Peaks Network Meeting** – continuous involvement.
- **AADC Members Council** – continuous participation.

- **AADC ADF Minimum Unit Pricing Discussion** – contributed to advocacy efforts.
- **Menzies Research Projects** – engaged in the Banned Drinkers & Grog App initiative.

### 2. Stakeholder Engagement

In response to the sector's needs, we conducted a comprehensive needs assessment, collecting valuable data from over 22 member organisations. This assessment highlighted significant gaps in 'culturally appropriate' training and workforce development, shaping our initiatives for the year.

### 3. Training and Development

Recognising the importance of workforce competence, we facilitated several targeted training programs:

- **Medication Skills Training:** Conducted in Katherine, Alice Springs, and Darwin, with 60 participants over three days.
- **Drug Testing Workshop:** Held in Alice Springs, with 25 participants.
- **Comorbidity and Dual Diagnosis Workshops:** Delivered in Alice Springs and Darwin, involving 24 participants at each site.
- **Culturally Responsive Practice Workshops:** Conducted in Darwin, engaging 50 participants across two sessions.

Feedback from participants indicated a 95% increase in confidence and competence in their practice following these training sessions.

#### 4. Governance Support

We provided critical governance support to our member organisations through:

- **Workshops on Board Roles and Responsibilities** – focused on enhancing governance frameworks.
- **Risk Management Workshop** – delivered strategies for effective risk management in service delivery.

Additionally, we developed a comprehensive governance toolkit, which has been widely accessed by our members.

#### 5. Advocacy and Policy Development

Our advocacy efforts included contributions to the Needle and Syringe Program and the National Take Home Naloxone Program, leading to improved harm reduction strategies and expanded access to life-saving resources.

#### 6. Continuous Improvement

We administered several surveys to identify training and workforce development gaps:

- Workforce Profiling Survey
- Skills and Competency Gap Analysis Survey
- Emerging Issues and Future Skills Survey

These surveys collected diverse perspectives from frontline staff and management, informing our training initiatives and ensuring they address the sector's evolving needs.

#### Conclusion

The past year has been one of growth, collaboration, and significant achievements for AADANT's Capacity Building and Engagement Coordinator. Our ongoing commitment to enhancing service delivery, workforce development, and advocacy has positioned us as a leader in the AOD sector.

We extend our gratitude to all stakeholders for their continued support and collaboration, and we look forward to another year of rewarding achievements as we strive to improve outcomes for individuals and communities affected by substance misuse.

## Member Testimonials

*Would recommend!  
Half day course,  
highly informative  
and very accessible  
to workers at all  
levels of AOD sector.*

*I would recommend to  
others as it was informative  
and engaging.*

*Culturally  
appropriate  
practice to be  
ongoing training  
from now on.*

*Culturally appropriate  
with understanding that  
young people need a  
safe place to have  
a voice.*

*Good for learning  
a variety of topics  
covering youth  
engagement.*

*Important to all  
people working  
with indigenous  
youth.*

*Highly  
recommended,  
especially if you  
work in the industry  
or upskilling.*

# AADANT Professional Development Forum

The AADANT Professional Development Forum, incorporating the NT AOD Awards, was held in May 2024 and provided employees in the AOD sector with valuable insights into issues affecting the future development of the sector.

The Forum also enhanced the knowledge and skills of staff so that they are better equipped to deliver critical services and programs to assist people affected by substance misuse.

Keynote speakers and presenters at the Forum were as follows:



**Hon Selena Uibo**, Minister for Health; Minister for Remote Housing and Homelands; Minister for Parks and Rangers; Minister for Local Decision Making; Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention; Minister for Public Employment; Minister for Corporate and Digital Development.

The Minister delivered the opening address and highlighted NT Government initiatives for the Alcohol and Other Drug sector.



**Professor Kate Seear**, Australian Research Council Future Fellow and the Deputy Director of the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University.

Professor Seear has written extensively on alcohol and other drugs and presented a keynote address on 'Human Rights in Accessing AOD Treatment'.



**Melanie Walker**, CEO of the Australian Alcohol and Other Drugs Council, former Chief of Staff to the ACT's Deputy Chief Minister and former CEO of the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League.

Melanie was the Forum's MC and Awards Luncheon Guest Speaker. She ensured the smooth and professional conduct of the Forum.



**Professor James Smith**, Deputy Dean of Rural and Remote Health - NT, and Matthew Flinders Professor (Health and Social Equity) at Flinders University.

Professor Smith has research expertise in health promotion, prevention, community engagement, men's health, Indigenous health, and Indigenous education. He delivered an Interactive Workshop for CEOs.



**Dr Cassandra Wright**, Senior Research Fellow and leader of the Alcohol and Other Drug Research Program at the Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin.

Dr Wright has a particular interest in investigating the impact of alcohol and other drugs policies on health and social outcomes. She provided an insightful update on research undertaken at the Menzies School.



**Sacha King**, the founder and managing Director of Two Two One Mental health Charity and the 2023 Northern Territory Local Hero.

Sacha is a social worker, counsellor and passionate advocate for mental health literacy and delivered a Workshop on 'Working with Mental Health Clients in an AOD Context'.



**Melinda Beckwith**, a registered psychologist working with AOD services at the Matilda Centre, University of Sydney.

Belinda works at the complex intersection of substance use and mental health, and presented a Workshop on 'Working with Clients Presenting Multiple Complex Needs'.



**Elizabeth Stubbs**, a senior manager in the community service sector who has extensive experience in the development, implementation, delivery and review of youth AOD programs in the Northern Territory.

Elizabeth delivered a workshop on 'Culturally Responsive Practice for Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People'.



**Caterina Giorgi**, the CEO of the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE), Founding Member of Women in Public Health, and Director of For Purpose.

Caterina provided an 'Introduction to FARE', a not-for-profit organisation working towards an Australia free from alcohol harm.



**Dr Josie Povey**, an Occupational Therapist who has worked in the Northern Territory in clinical and research roles for the past 15 years.

Dr Povey has a particular interest in improving mental health care access and quality, the use of technology in mental health care and participatory research methods. She presented a Workshop on 'AIMhi Stay Strong Digital Mental Health Training APP' in collaboration with Chantal Ober.



**Jaylene Friel** is a Murrinh-Patha and Arrernte woman from the NT, who grew up in Darwin.

Jaylene has worked with the Stay Strong team since 2021 having completed a Certificate II in Community Health Research and Certificate III in Business - in 2022. Jaylene has a special interest in mental health and is dedicated to helping improve the social and emotional wellbeing of her people and community.

# NT AOD Award Winners 2024

The Northern Territory AOD Awards celebrate the achievements of outstanding employees in the AOD sector and provide inspiration for the pursuit of excellence within the sector. The winners of this year's awards and their respective achievements are detailed below.

## YIANNA PATERAKIS

### NT AOD WORKER OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by Star Colleges

This award is presented to an AOD worker in the NT working for an NGO or partnered with an NGO who shows commitment, drive, perseverance, and dedication to the role.

Yianna has worked in the AOD sector for 20 years with CatholicCare NT. She is passionate about raising awareness and reducing the stigma around substance use and has led CatholicCare AOD teams in Darwin and supported teams in remote areas.

Yianna has organised Youth AOD Forums and presented at conferences and public events. She was instrumental in successfully advocating for an AOD peak body and associated funding.

## ELIZABETH ALBISTON

### OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO YOUTH WORK

Sponsored by ADF

This award is presented to an AOD worker in the NT working for an NGO or partnered with an NGO who shows commitment, drive, perseverance, and dedication to working with young people.

Elizabeth has been a driving force behind the Drug and Alcohol Intensive Support for Youth (DAISY) program. Her leadership and person-centred approach to assisting vulnerable young people and families with harm reduction has assisted many youths to reduce or discontinue their addiction, successfully advocating for an AOD peak body and associated funding.

## ANDREW WILSON

### CAROLE TAYLOR ADVOCACY AWARD

This award recognises the significant and remarkable contribution of Carole Taylor, former CEO of DASA in Alice Springs. The Carole Taylor Advocacy Award is presented to a nominee showing outstanding and unwavering dedication to and a positive influence on the NT AOD Sector.

Andrew is the Service Manager of the Anindilyakwa Healing Centre, the

Alternative to Custody Program being commenced for Aboriginal Men on Groote Eylandt. He has passionately advocated for the people of the Groote Archipelago to ensure that the Alternative to Custody Program is promoted as a true and effective alternative to prison, whereby AOD concerns are addressed as part of a holistic approach to improving residents' wellbeing.

## **MUSIC NT - ALL GOOD PROJECT**

### **EXCELLENCE I-IN HARM REDUCTION**

This award is presented to an AOD worker in the NT working for an NGO or partnered with an NGO who is committed to minimising the harms of AOD on the NT/ their own community.

The All-good project (AGP) provides a volunteer, peer-delivered harm reduction education and support service to festival attendees at BASSINTHEGRASS (BITG) to improve festival safety around alcohol and other drugs and sexual health.

Harm reduction and sexual health promotion resources are made available for festival attendees through the AGP, with the view to reducing harms from alcohol and other drugs, reducing sexual harms and gender-based violence, and reducing reliance on emergency medical services, bar staff and NT Police.

## **MICHELLE DHU**

### **EXCELLENCE IN INDIGENOUS AOD PROGRAMS/SERVICE**

This award recognises the significant contribution of an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander individual, organisation or program to preventing and/or minimising alcohol and other drug related harms in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

## **BANYAN HOUSE**

### **EXCELLENCE IN ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG TREATMENT**

This award is presented to an NGO in the NT showing innovation, excellence and contribution to the health and safety of the community through an AOD program.

Banyan House is one of only two Therapeutic Community models in the Northern Territory and operates under a philosophy that empowers residents to set and achieve their own goals. Positive outcomes are achieved by encouraging family reconnection and even allowing residents to bring their dogs (where appropriate). Banyan House is impressive in its efforts to be environmentally sustainable and has dual accreditation (Quality Improvement Council & Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association).

As a member of the Aboriginal Outreach Team, Michelle comes to work with an enthusiasm which is infectious. She has been responsible for an increase in client engagement and has helped many clients commence employment, secure housing, and achieve other important goals.

# Finance Report

## Acknowledgement of Service

After four years as a member of the AADANT Board and almost two years as Treasurer, it is with regret that Kerri Diamond advised of her resignation effective 21 August 2024. The AADANT Team and Board thank Kerri for her hard work and dedication to AADANT and the AOD sector, and wish her all the best for a well-deserved retirement.

## Financial Report 2023/24

Over the past financial year, the sector has faced numerous challenges, particularly concerning staffing and funding. Despite these obstacles, AADANT has successfully maintained its membership, reflecting the significant services we provide as a peak body.

Recently, we secured additional funding from the NT Government and the Primary Health Network, enabling AADANT to conduct various training workshops in Darwin and Alice Springs. These workshops were tailored to address the specific needs identified by our members in previous stakeholder surveys. Additionally, AADANT obtained an extension of its Commonwealth funding through 2027, allowing for the continued employment of a full-time staff member focused on capacity building in the sector.

In 2024, the annual Alcohol and Other Drugs Conference was replaced with a Professional Development Forum, which included a CEO Workshop. This new format was a resounding success, resulting in a sold-out event, despite a slight decline in sponsorship compared to the previous year's conference.

In February 2024, with the support of the AADANT Board, we appointed a new accounting firm, welcoming Michele Bain, Director of The Adding Value CFO, to our team. I am also proud to have completed my Certificate IV in Accounting and Bookkeeping, an achievement made possible through the guidance of Stephanie Holmes and Michele Bain, has given me the opportunity to upskill and enhance my role in the finance department of AADANT.

The AADANT team, Board of Directors, and our accountants (previously Angus Accounting and now represented by The Adding Value CFO) have worked diligently to manage all financial matters responsibly and in compliance with our policies and governance requirements. AADANT ensured that it maximised its service delivery, resulting in no underspends within NTG and Commonwealth funding, with only a minimal underspend for the PHN Medication Skillset Training grant.

As we look forward to future opportunities, we remain committed to maintaining financial stability and further strengthening our membership base. The financial statements for the year have been prepared in accordance with relevant accounting standards, and I now present the audited financial report, providing a transparent overview of AADANT's financial position.



**Carli Finch**  
Finance and Administration Coordinator

# ASSOCIATION OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG AGENCIES NT INCORPORATED

**Board's Report**  
For the year ended 30 June 2024

The Board of Directors submit the financial report of the Association of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies NT Incorporated ("the Association") for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

## Board Members

The names of the Board of Directors during the financial year and at the date of this report were:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Eloise Page	Chairperson
James Smith	Vice Chairperson
Amanda Davies	Secretary
Kerri Diamond	Treasurer
Stephen Versteegh	Public Officer
Richard Michell	Board Member
Debbie Borden	Board Member
Jillian Smith	Skills Based Member

## Objects and Purposes

The key purposes of the Association are as follows:

To serve as a Peak Body for the Non-Government Alcohol and Other Drugs Sector in the Northern Territory through:

- a) Advocacy and representation of sector perspectives on policy and other issues as they relate to substance use;
- b) Fostering education and exchange of information to promote sector capacity building, reduce harm and increase public awareness;
- c) Provision of a forum for mutual support for organisations and individuals working in the field of drug and alcohol dependence
- d) Raising funds from the activities of the Association, from public appeal, donations, subscriptions, grants or other lawful means, which funds will be applied to the purposes in (a) to (c) above.

There were no significant changes in the nature of the activities of the Association during the year.

## Operating Result

The profit from operations of the Association for the year amounted to \$21,244 (profit 2023: (\$9,382)).

# ASSOCIATION OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG AGENCIES NT INCORPORATED

**Board's Report**  
For the year ended 30 June 2024

## **Environmental Regulation**

The Association's operations are not subject to any significant environmental regulations under either Commonwealth or State legislation. However, the Directors believe that the Association has adequate systems in place for the management of its environmental requirements and is not aware of any breach of those environmental requirements as they apply to the Association.

## **Events Subsequent to Reporting Date**

There has not arisen in the interval between the end of the financial year and the date of this report any matter or circumstance that has significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Association, in future financial years.

# ASSOCIATION OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG AGENCIES NT INCORPORATED

## Board's Independence Declaration For the year ended 30 June 2024

At no time during the financial year ended 30 June 2024 was an officer of the Association the auditor, a partner in the audit firm, or a director of the audit company that undertook the audit of the Association for that financial year.

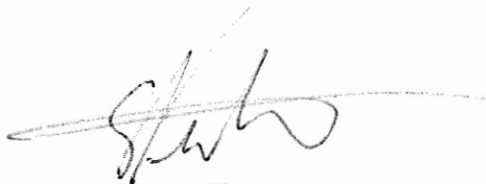
The lead auditor's independence declaration form the part of the Board report for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

### Operating Report:

In our opinion;

- a) The accompanying Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income is drawn up so as to present fairly the results of the Association for the financial year ended 30 June 2024;
- b) The accompanying Statement of Financial Position is drawn up so as to present fairly the state of affairs of the the Association as at the end of the financial year; and
- c) The Association is able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board



Public Officer

Date: 5/11/24



Secretary

Date: 6/11/2024

# ASSOCIATION OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG AGENCIES NT INCORPORATED

## Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Revenue</b>			
Grants	3	633,019	408,796
Interest	3	113	133
Other Income	3	36,490	77,283
<b>Gross profit</b>		<b>669,622</b>	<b>486,212</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Employee expense	4	(286,918)	(274,186)
Other expenses	4	(361,460)	(221,408)
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>(648,378)</b>	<b>(495,594)</b>
<b>Profit/(Loss) from Operations</b>		<b>21,244</b>	<b>(9,382)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the Year</b>		<b>21,244</b>	<b>(9,382)</b>

# ASSOCIATION OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG AGENCIES NT INCORPORATED

## Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	200,059	199,042
Accounts receivable and other debtors	6	1,010	400
Other current assets	7	3,033	2,271
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>204,102</b>	<b>201,713</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Deposits	8	2,000	2,000
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>206,102</b>	<b>203,713</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Accounts payable and other payables	9	23,799	18,066
Grant liabilities	10	-	23,197
Employee provisions	11	11,373	7,582
Other liabilities		1,786	-
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>36,958</b>	<b>48,845</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>36,958</b>	<b>48,845</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>169,144</b>	<b>154,868</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained Earnings		169,144	154,868
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>169,144</b>	<b>154,868</b>

# ASSOCIATION OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG AGENCIES NT INCORPORATED

**Statement of Changes in Equity**  
For the year ended 30 June 2024

2023	Contributed funds \$	Retained earnings \$	Total equity \$
Opening balance	15,000	149,251	164,251
Profit for the year	-	(9,382)	(9,382)
<b>Closing Balance 30 June 2023</b>	15,000	139,869	154,869

2024	Contributed funds \$	Retained earnings \$	Total equity \$
Opening balance	15,000	139,869	154,869
Unexpended grants	(6,969)	-	(6,969)
Profit for the year	-	21,244	21,244
<b>Closing Balance 30 June 2024</b>	8,031	161,113	169,144



Francis A Jones  
Where people count.

## Independent Audit Report to the members of ASSOCIATION OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG AGENCIES NT INCORPORATED

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

#### Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of ASSOCIATION OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG AGENCIES NT INCORPORATED (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements and the board's report.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Association for the year ended 30 June 2024 is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code)* that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Other Matter

Our opinion on the financial report for the current year does not extend to the comparative information, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the prior period financial information included in this report

#### Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is prepared to assist the Association in fulfilling the directors' financial reporting responsibilities under the Corporations Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the Association and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the Association. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

#### Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.



Daniel Papaphotis  
Registered Company Auditor  
# - 410503  
Francis A Jones Pty Ltd  
154 High Street  
Fremantle WA 6160

11 November 2024

Our Ref: ACM5705 DPP : JL



Francis A Jones  
Where people count.

11 November 2024

Association of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies NT Incorporated  
8/52 Marin Boulevard  
Larrakeyah, NT 0820

DIRECTORS

Michael McGrath	B Bus CPA
Mark Douglas	B Bus CPA
Matthew Moonen	B Com CPA
Ben Paganoni	B Com CPA
Daniel Papaphotis	B Com CPA
Michael Basilio	B Com CPA

Dear Sir/Madam,

MANAGEMENT LETTER – YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

We have completed our audit of the Association of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies NT Incorporated for the above year.

As stated in our engagement letter, our audit is designed to form an opinion on the financial report.

In addition we must also report to the company concerning any material weakness in the agent's administrative procedures or systems which come to our notice.

During the conduct of our audit we noted the following matters that is considered worthy of your attention;

- *Contingency – Community Grants Hub*

The Community Grants Hub, representing the Department of Health, is conducting an investigation into discrepancies identified between acquittal-reported income and actual grants received under the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services within the Drug and Alcohol Program. Preliminary findings indicate that certain income items, specifically interest income, may have been included in the acquittal process in previous years. This inclusion may be outside the scope of the acquittal requirements, which could lead to an adjustment in AADANT's reported unspent funds.

The potential misclassification of interest income as acquittable funds has implications for the accuracy of AADANT's financial reporting and the organization's compliance with grant guidelines. If interest income is confirmed to be outside the scope, adjustments may be required to correct the reported unspent funds, possibly affecting AADANT's financial position and future funding arrangements.

This report is prepared under the terms of our engagement solely for the information of the association.

Kind regards

Daniel Papaphotis  
REGISTERED COMPANY AUDITOR

154 High Street Fremantle WA  
PO Box 39 Fremantle WA 6959

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Francis A. Jones is a CPA practice

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.



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