

An update from the DASA CEO – 8 May 2026

As many of you would be aware, DASA experienced severe damage at Aranda House, our Therapeutic Community facility, during the February 2026 Alice Springs flood event. Since then, we have been working closely with the Northern Territory Department of Health to secure the future of Aranda House. We are grateful for the ongoing support from the Department of Health to develop interim and longer-term solutions and plans. I further extend my thanks to the NTPHN and NIAA, especially our contract managers, for their ongoing support and flexibility.

My heartfelt thanks go out to CAAAPU, their Board and CEO, Demian Coates, for housing our residents on their site during this difficult time. This collegiate spirit and collaborative approach to client support are a true reflection of the dedication of those within the alcohol and other drug sector within the Northern Territory, where we all see each other as colleagues, not competitors. Where the end goal is the wellbeing of our clients and our communities. I am proud to be a part of such a determined, resilient and person-centred sector.

Next steps

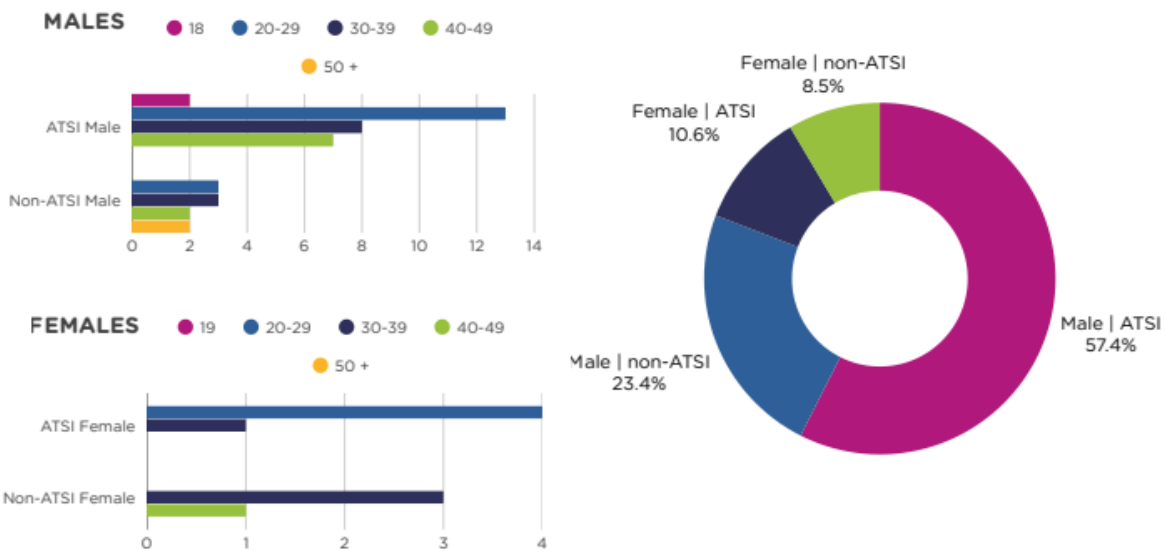
With the guidance and financial support of the NT Health Department, Aranda House will soon be relocating from CAAAPU to Bob Gaff House at 4 Schwarz Crescent. The expectation is that will occur by the end of June 2026. While this will result in a reduction in capacity, we will be able to resume normal operations as a Therapeutic Community and continue delivering the Take a Break Program.

This change means that DASA's Head Office will be relocating. DASA Head Office will be running at reduced operations during the period of 25 May – 3rd June as we pack down and prepare to move. As of Thursday, 4th of June, you will find us at 6/15 Leichardt Terrace, in the Alice Springs CBD. Parking is available across the road on the Todd Riverbank car park.

In other news, the new [Restorative Day Program](#), funded by the NT Department of Health, will commence on 1 June 2026. This new program aims to reduce alcohol and drug related harm and support positive behaviour change by strengthening treatment readiness through culturally responsive, trauma informed, and strengths-based approaches aligned with a Social & Emotional Wellbeing Framework. This program is open to Men aged 18+ who are engaging in high-risk alcohol or other drug use and are at increased risk of involvement with the justice system, including those on bail for DFSV offences, and we are now accepting referrals. The referral form is available on the DASA website.

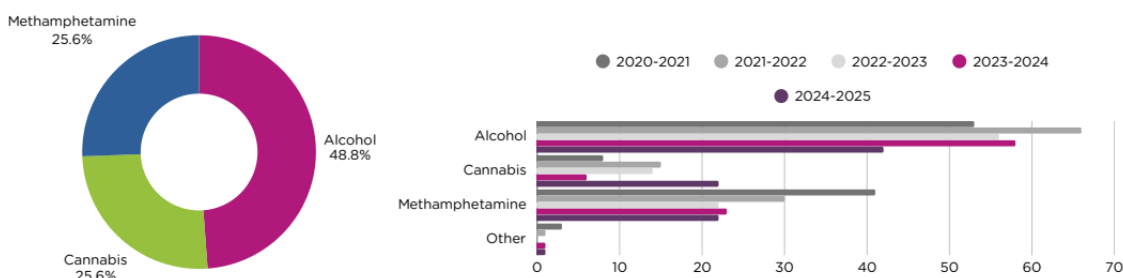
Despite the environmental challenges, DASA continues to deliver services in Alice Springs and on Groote Eylandt, supporting individuals to reduce harm from substance use and to reduce engagement with the justice system. Our data tells us that we are still very much needed, our work is far from done. Our data and our service partners tell us that methamphetamine use continues to rise, with a diverse range of people using methamphetamine. Gone are the days of it being stigmatised and labelled as a ‘*cashed up tradie*’ substance. Methamphetamine is being used by Aboriginal people at an increasing rate. DASA’s data alone tells the story. In the 2024-2025 Financial Year, DASA’s Meth Outreach Team supported 48 individual clients in Alice Springs. Of those, **68% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander**, which is an increase of 3% on the previous year. To break this down further see the table below:

Age, Gender and ATSI Status Breakdown



In our residential program, Aranda House Therapeutic Community, we provided residential support to 87 clients in the 2024-2025 Financial Year. **25% of those clients identified Methamphetamine** as their primary drug of concern. 91% of the clients at Aranda House identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Further breakdown in the table below:

Principal Drug of Concern



So, 41 years from DASA's commencement, our work is not done. The drug trends have changed, but the harm is still occurring, and we are here to support the reduction of harm in our communities through destigmatising, supporting, advocating, collaborating and operating with compassion and integrity. Please know that we are here to support, not punish or judge. If you, or somebody you know, need support to reduce harm associated with alcohol or other drug use, please reach out to DASA. We are here to help – no matter who you are. Where we can't help, we will help find someone who can.

Contact Us

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DONATE

A gentle reminder that it is almost tax time. If you would like to support the rebuild of Aranda House, you can do so by making a tax-deductible donation here: [Make a Tax Deductible Donation to DASA](#)

Thank you to everyone who expressed their support to DASA during this time of change. Your support and kindness are truly appreciated.



Eloise Cole
Chief Executive Officer
DASA