

## September 2020

### Policy and submissions

- The AOD Peaks Network has written to the Federal Health Minister to provide the results of the COVID-19 survey of members highlighting the agility of the NGOA AOD sector in responding to the impact of COVID-19. We requested the Minister consider the financial implications of the pandemic, as well as the uncertainty resulting from freeze on indexation and the cessation of ERO supplement.
- NADA and the NSW health peaks have sent a letter to NSW Ministry of Health seeking clarification on the Supplementation and Indexation under the NSW Ministry of Health NGO Ministerial Grants Program
- NADA wrote to the NSW Health Minister providing the results of the member COVID-19 impact survey requesting an additional 1.5% of members funding agreements amounts be applied to support responses to COVID-19 for items such as PPE and technology costs
- ADARRN and NADA provided a joint media release calling on the NSW Government to start implementing the recommendations from the Special Commission of Inquiry into the Drug "Ice". to see more resources given to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations
- NADA provided a submission to the parliamentary inquiry into family, domestic and sexual violence, as well as providing feedback on the AADC submission.
- Submission from a coalition of Australian alcohol and other drug services We are calling on Australian, State and Territory Governments to respond with policy changes and additional funding for the treatment sector to enable these enhancements on an ongoing basis.
- NADA is also supporting the campaign by the Australian Council of Social Services to raise the rate, which is calling for a permanent and adequate increase to Newstart, JobSeeker, Youth Allowance and related payments. <https://raisetherate.org.au/>
- NADA has contributed to consultation on the trial of eight Adult Mental Health Centres across Australia. The NSW centre will be located, in Penrith NSW.
- NADA submitted a response the Digital Transformation Expert Panel who've been asked to provide advice to the Australian Industry and Skills Committee 'on how Australia's VET system can most effectively respond to digital change underway across industry and its impact on the nation's workforce'.

### Advocacy and representation

- The NADA Advocacy Sub-Committee meetings have focused on the advocacy priorities of NADA members. In the short-medium term this is on impact of COVID-19, and funding sustainability of the sector, longer term the committee is still discussing the importance of the Special Commission of Inquiry into the Drug 'Ice' final report recommendations.
- NADA has been representing members on a range of COVID-19 meeting structures:
  - NSW Ministry of COVID-19 Clinical Council
  - NGO Community of Practice
  - AOD Community of Practice
- NADA met with educators from the Executive Education Department from the Australian Catholic University to discuss the formal education needs of managers and leaders during COVID-19 and beyond.
- NADA has worked with DCJ executive staff to organise a roundtable workshop with NADA member women's residential rehabilitation services, DCJ and MOH to discuss ways our sectors can enhance collaborative practice and partnerships, and referral pathways

- NADA is part of the steering committee overseeing the Take Home Naloxone Program and participated in the pilot of the NGO take home naloxone training program.
- NADA is part of a working group tasked with informing the development and delivery of a workforce development package and implementation strategy for the *NSW Clinical Care Standards: Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment*.
- The AOD Peaks Network ramped up their meeting frequency to advocate on behalf of NGO AOD services nationally
- Key meetings: Australian Government Department of Health, NSW Ministry of Health, NSW Department of Communities and Justice, NSW Council of Social Services
- NADA participated in monthly Peaks Capacity Building Network teleconferences

Information on NADA's policy and advocacy work, including Sector Watch and the meetings that NADA represents its members, is available on the NADA website [here](#).