



**SANDAS**  
South Australian  
Network of Drug & Alcohol Services

# 2015 Annual Report



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South Australian  
Network of Drug & Alcohol Services

South Australian Network  
of Drug and Alcohol Services

11th Annual Report 2014-2015

Published by the South Australian  
Network of Drug and Alcohol Services

November 2015

204 Wright Street  
Adelaide, SA 5000

P (08) 8231 8818

F (08) 8231 8860

E [sandasinfo@sandas.org.au](mailto:sandasinfo@sandas.org.au)

[www.sandas.org.au](http://www.sandas.org.au)

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Alcohol Services, 2015

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Formed in 2004, the South Australian Network of Drug and Alcohol Services (SANDAS) is the peak body representing the state's Non-Government Organisation (NGO) Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) sector.

SANDAS works with its members and stakeholders to reduce the harmful impact of alcohol and other drugs through independent representation at national and state levels, providing opportunities for networking and collective action through information sharing, advocacy, training and policy review.

The work of SANDAS is supported by a secretariat comprised of an Executive Officer, Senior Policy and Projects Officer, part-time Finance and Quality Assurance Officer and part-time Assistant Project Officer.

SANDAS acknowledges and appreciates ongoing support from:

- Commonwealth Department of Health
- SA Health – Drug and Alcohol Services SA (DASSA).

2014/15 has been yet another positive year for SANDAS with many changes taking place. We began by welcoming our new Executive Officer, Michael White, in November 2014. He comes to SANDAS with vast experience across the community sector, including work in peak bodies and in the Alcohol and Other Drugs research sector.

We have also welcomed Sam Raven, one of our previous board members, to our staff team as the Senior Policy and Project Officer. I also take this opportunity to thank Andris Banders for his seven years of service to SANDAS as Executive Officer.

SANDAS ran its first Conference in October 2014, welcoming international speakers, many interstate delegates, and providing an important professional development and networking event for the South Australian Alcohol and Drug Sector. We hope to be in a position to provide more events of this calibre in coming years.

With the instatement of a new Executive Officer, the SANDAS staff and board held a joint planning day where we developed the Strategic Plan for the next three years. We also received the good news that our funding from the State Government – DASP has been secured for another three years. This has given us with some stability and provides us a great opportunity to continue working on our core business.

SANDAS has been heavily involved with the other state and territory AOD peak bodies in lobbying the Federal Government to provide certainty in future funding for the Non-Government Alcohol and Other Drug Sectors through the Non-Government Organisation Treatment Grant Program (NGOTGP) and the Substance Misuse Service Delivery Grant Funding (SMSDGF).

We have also been involved in working towards the re-establishment of a national peak body for the Alcohol and Other Drug Sector.

Concern about crystal methamphetamine has received a lot of hype in the media. This has given SANDAS an opportunity to increase our profile as well as share the facts about methamphetamine, treatment options, treatment effectiveness and the uncertainty of future commonwealth funding for treatment and capacity building. SANDAS has organised and been involved in several community and sector forums, professional development sessions and other events relating to methamphetamine.

Another busy year for SANDAS has gone by, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the team of workers and the board for the hard work that has been done throughout the year.

*Helene Nielsen*

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## SANDAS Board Members

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Helene Nielsen - Chair  
(Centacare)

Carol Gannon - Secretary  
(Uniting Communities)

Mark Anders - Treasurer

Carol Hampton - Deputy Chair  
(Mission Australia)

Debby Kadarusman  
(Drug Arm)

Karen Flenche  
(Salvation Army)

Deirdre Flynn  
(Catherine House)

Ben Hehir  
(Northern Area Community and Youth Service – NACYS)

Mark Hubbard  
(Individual Member)

Leisha Olliver  
(Life Without Barriers)

Michael White  
(Ex Officio)

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## Executive Committee Members

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Helene Nielsen  
Carol Gannon  
Carol Hampton  
Mark Anders  
Michael White

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## Advocacy and Representation Sub-Committee Members

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Mark Hubbard  
Debby Kadarusman  
Karen Flenche  
Sam Raven  
Michael White

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## Evidence and Partnership Sub-Committee Members

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Helene Nielsen  
Carol Gannon  
My Phoung Sramek  
Michael White  
Sam Raven

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## SANDAS Secretariat

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Michael White *Executive Officer*  
Sam Raven *Projects and Policy Coordinator*  
Bec Rillett *Finance and Quality Assurance Officer (0.8 FTE)*  
Lesli Bevan *Assistant Project Officer (0.6 FTE)*

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## Board members resigned 2014-2015

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Carol Hampton  
Leisha Olliver (*Maternity leave*)  
Sam Raven

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## Staff resigned 2014-2015

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Andris Banders *Executive Officer*  
Victoria Monahan *Senior Policy and Projects Officer*

This year SANDAS moved into its second decade of delivering services to the non-government alcohol and other drug sector in South Australia. It did so by undertaking some major activities, managing a few significant changes and by redefining its position in South Australia and nationally.

Our most significant event for the year was the delivery of a two day conference on alcohol and other drug treatment in South Australia. The conference was titled *"Creating a Leadership Culture in the AOD Sector in South Australia"*.

The Conference themes were Leadership, the Client's Journey, and Working with Complexity. The event aimed to encourage a positive culture within the SA AOD sector, support future-focussed thinking and support proactive, evidence-based innovation in the sector.

The Conference provided opportunities for learning, networking and collaboration across the SA AOD sector, and a forum for lively discussion and debate. There were two International Guest Speakers, Mark Gilman, the Strategic Recovery Lead for Public Health in England and Christine Duncan, CEO of Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol & Drugs.

The program also included National and State experts who addressed emerging issues including crystal methamphetamine and gambling. It was enhanced by a range of master classes that sought to explore the conference themes more deeply. See page 10 for a fuller review.

Needless to say the Conference could not have been delivered without the drive and commitment of three staff who have since left. They are Andris Banders, Executive Officer; Victoria Monahan, Senior Policy and Projects Officer; and Marion MacKay, who came on

board to assist with conference delivery. Lesli Bevan and Bec Rilett also made enormous contributions and I would like to thank them for their work.

The SANDAS team was supported by Vivian Clark, SACOSS Events Coordinator, who ensured the Conference ran smoothly. Her experience and skills were vital for the successful planning and organisation of the event.

This year we have also conducted a number of very successful training programs on supervision, comorbidity and methamphetamine. In conjunction with the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) at Flinders University, we delivered a one day forum on methamphetamine. The key purpose of this was to provide leadership to the sector on an issue that has been of great concern to the community, a fixation for the press and a challenge to the sector. The forum highlighted the reality of the methamphetamine problem in South Australia, challenged the press stereotypes of an epidemic of out-of-control clients who could never be saved and provided the sector with the message that they are experts in delivering treatment that works. The forum also emphasised that AOD workers are skilled in the evidence-based interventions that methamphetamine users need to help them break the cycle of dependence. It highlighted that what is lacking is not service capability but rather capacity, driven by inadequate levels of funding. The event generated considerable press coverage and led to our involvement in a number of other forums around the state.

In collaboration with Odyssey House Victoria and NCETA we commenced the development of a suite of resources on the intersection between AOD and gambling.

These resources will be delivered in the 2015/2016 financial year and are an example of the importance SANDAS places on evidence-based strategies to improve intersectoral practice. They also highlight the value of working in partnership with service delivery and research organisations.

This year also saw the development of a refined Vision and Mission statement for the organisation as part of our Strategic Planning process. These are:

## **VISION**

*SANDAS works to lead and strengthen community responses to the harms caused by alcohol and other drugs.*

## **MISSION**

*SANDAS facilitates networking, collaboration, research, information sharing, advocacy, training and policy review to reduce the harmful impacts of alcohol and other drugs. We are the voice of our members and stakeholders at national and state levels.*

The Strategic Plan provides us a clear framework for our activities over the next three years.

I would like to acknowledge our major funding bodies without whom much of our work would not be possible: SA Health – Drug and Alcohol Services SA; and the Commonwealth Department of Health. I would like to thank the staff of these departments who have worked with us over the year. The collegiate, open and honest communication that occurs in our meetings is critical to the development of the best service system we can deliver. SANDAS is privileged to enjoy highly professional and engaging relationships with these funding bodies.

I also wish to acknowledge the support of the staff of SANDAS who do an incredible job. Sam, Lesli and Bec work with a sense of calm conviction and can-do attitudes that ensures that what needs to get done does get done. I also work with a great Board who are engaged, supportive and challenging when they need to be. I would like to thank all members for their support and engagement.

I feel very privileged to work with such a great organisation. My thanks to Andris Banders, previous EO, whose support to me in the initial months of my tenure was very generous.

I look forward to continuing our work together.

*Michael White*

Having joined as Treasurer in February 2015 it has been a learning curve over the past few months understanding SANDAS's mission, the underlying financial position and the governance around the finances.

During the year SANDAS became accredited under the iQES integrated quality and safety management system. This involved updating document management, including financial records, to improve quality and efficiency within the organisation.

In addition, with the use of MYOB cloud computing and a new format for the monthly reporting, the financial information is presented with sufficient detail, and in a timely manner, to allow management and the Board to efficiently analyse the reports and budgets. We thank Michael White, executive officer, and Bec Rilett, finance officer, for the improvements they made to the financial reporting.

The 30 June 2015 financial report, to be read in conjunction with my Treasurer's report, shows a profit of \$19,364, net assets of \$195,944 and cash reserves of \$216,180.

As in prior years, the major source of funding comes from SA Health (DASSA) and the Commonwealth Department of Health (DOH) with a commitment of funds to 30 June 2016.

Even with a sound financial base, SANDAS knows it must remain diligent in continuing to seek opportunities to build on, and improve, the utilisation of resources to ensure SANDAS is best placed to meet the ongoing sector challenges and provide relevant benefits to members in the sector.

PKF Kennedy continues to provide accounting and audit services to SANDAS and an unqualified audit opinion has been issued on the financial statements.

It is also worth noting SANDAS is on track to meet its reporting, legal and regularity obligations.

On a personal note I would like to thank the previous Treasurer, Sam Raven, who has moved into a project role at SANDAS, Michael White, Bec Rilett and the other Board members for the support they have offered since I took over the role.

*Mark Anders*  
*Treasurer - SANDAS*

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NETWORK OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL SERVICES INC.

**Report on the Financial Report**

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of South Australian Network of Drug and Alcohol Services Inc. (the association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2015 for the year then ended, the statement of profit and loss, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by members of the committee.

*Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (SA) 1985 and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibilities also include designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

*Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting under the Associations Incorporation Act (SA) 1985. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

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

*Independence*

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.



**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NETWORK OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL SERVICES INC.***Auditor's Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial report of South Australian Network of Drug and Alcohol Services Inc. presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of South Australian Network of Drug and Alcohol Services Inc. as of 30 June 2015 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the Associations Incorporations Act (SA) 1985.

Name of firm: PKF Kennedy

Name of partner: Steven A Russo CA



Address: Lvl 9, 81 Flinders Street, Adelaide SA

Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November 2015

**PKF Kennedy**  
ABN 17 661 180 227

Level 9, 81 Flinders Street, Adelaide SA 5000  
GPO Box 1373, Adelaide SA 5001

p +61 8 8373 5588  
f +61 8 8273 2222

e [enquiries@pkfkennedy.com.au](mailto:enquiries@pkfkennedy.com.au)  
w [www.pkf.com.au](http://www.pkf.com.au)

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## Inaugural SANDAS Conference

The *SANDAS Conference 2014 – Creating a Culture of Leadership in the South Australian AOD Sector* was held on the 23rd and 24th October, 2014 at the Stamford Grand, Glenelg. Over two days delegates were engaged by plenary presentations, concurrent workshops and oral presentations and were also able to access trade displays from a number of key stakeholders. Pre-Conference Masterclasses were held on the 22nd October, 2014. These sessions were:

- *Research, Policy and Practice*
- *A Case for Early Intervention when working with families impacted by alcohol and other drugs*
- *Acting confident and confident acting in the workplace.*

The conference included sessions with two international Keynote Speakers, Mark Gilman, Strategic Recovery Lead, Public Health England and Christine Duncan MSW, CEO, Scottish Families Affected by Drugs and Alcohol, who delivered three keynote presentations between them. Seven national speakers presented in both plenary and concurrent sessions along with 13 South Australian presenters from metropolitan and rural SA.

Sessions varied in focus to cater for the broad cross section of attendees' areas of interest, and followed the three overarching themes of the conference, being *Leadership*, the *Client Journey*, and *Working with Complexity*.

The Conference concluded with the 10th Annual General Meeting of SANDAS and presentation of the Annual Report. The Conference was promoted via radio, social media, websites, sector event calendars and email distribution lists.

Andris Banders (then CEO), Victoria Monahan (then Senior Policy and Projects Officer) and keynote speakers Mark Gilman and Christine Duncan all participated in radio interviews as part of the SACOSS "Small Change" program. SACOSS strongly supported promotion of the event via Facebook and Twitter.

Conference attendance totalled approximately 190 delegates over the three days. Feedback showed a high degree of satisfaction with conference organisation, communication, content, relevance of topics, plenary sessions, concurrent sessions and venue/catering.

The following comments are examples of the conference elements considered most useful by participants:

- *"Synergies rather than division between recovery and harm minimisation."*
- *"The quality of the content and presentation and the bravery of being true to the theme and not being afraid to raise new or contentious ideas."*
- *"What is working and not working in the Sector at presents also to see where UK is at with linkages in MH and AOD Sectors and how they co-ordinate current services to achieve outcomes."*

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## Organisational Review

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Recognition by the SANDAS Board and Executive Officer of the need for increased forward planning prompted an organisational review in 2013/2014. Implementation of the review is now complete.

There are two ongoing board working groups stemming from the review. The Advocacy and Communication Sub-Committee meets monthly to discuss and propose advocacy and communication activities for approval by the full board and implementation by SANDAS staff.

The Partnerships and Evidence committee (due to recommence in the near future) addresses the promotion of evidence based practice and opportunities for collaboration.

As a consequence of the review, the Board developed and adopted the new strategic plan (see below) and associated annual work plan.

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## Strategic Plan 2015-2018

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A Strategic Planning Day was held in January 2015. There was full board attendance and Simone Cormack and Robert Ali presented on behalf of DASSA. DoH representatives were unable to attend. The day resulted in the development of a new organisational Strategic Plan 2015-2018. The plan identifies specific action points in each of the following five key areas:

- *Funding and sustainability*
- *Quality*
- *Advocacy and Representation*
- *Evidence and Research*
- *Partnerships/Collaboration/Relationships*

Copies of the SANDAS Strategic Plan 2015-2018 are available on our website or by request from our office.

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## Gambling Project

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In November, SANDAS commenced working with Odyssey House Victoria and the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) on a resource designed to increase AOD workers' understanding of and confidence to deal with clients' co-occurring gambling problems.

This project was funded by the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation. SANDAS was involved in completing a literature review to inform the resource development and the creation of a client resource and an information poster for use in waiting rooms. Odyssey led the writing of the worker resource and SANDAS undertook the consultation and editing of this resource.

Odyssey House, NCETA and a wide range of AOD and gambling experts provided significant input through this process.

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## NGO ADAPT Trial

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SANDAS facilitated a trial of the Addiction Dimensions for Assessment and Personalised Treatment (ADAPT) tool in NGO AOD services. This tool is used by DASSA clinical staff to measure addiction severity and co-morbidity complexity, and assists in ascertaining which clients are eligible for DASSA services under their new Model of Care.

174 responses were received as part of the trial, with the results being shared with the Stepped Care/Shared Care working group. The full report was disseminated in late 2015. This has enabled informed discussion of the relationship between and potential roles of both the NGO and Government delivered AOD services in SA.

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## Quality Accreditation

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Subsequent to the organisational review in 2013/2014, the Board undertook quality accreditation against the *Integrated Quality, Environment and Safety Management System* (iQES) standards, through *ECAAS Certification and Training*.

The accreditation process included an initial external review followed by an internal audit to review current work practice against the iQES standards and to develop a plan to address any gaps.

A number of SANDAS policies and procedures were developed or amended as a result of this process. SANDAS received formal certification in March 2015, valid for three years.

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## AOD Peaks Review

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Jointly, the state and territory peak bodies, through their National Peaks Capacity Building Network, resolved that the work that they undertake would be evaluated.

Particular emphasis was placed on each peak body's ability to support the NGO AOD treatment services to deliver measurable and sustainable results in treatment outcomes, including improvement of services to people experiencing co-occurring mental illness and substance misuse.

David McDonald, Consultant in Social Research & Evaluation, was commissioned to undertake the review. His report was released in May 2015, with the following key findings:

1. There are sound outcomes from the capacity building work.
2. The outcomes of the capacity building work are valuable.
3. The capacity building work has produced valued changes.

4. The capacity building strategies used have met the objectives of relevant funding bodies.
5. The rationale underpinning the capacity building activities is sound.
6. Priority capacity building strategies have been identified.
7. Capacity building strategies and activities have been successfully implemented.
8. The activities have provided value for money, though sustainability remains a concern.
9. The evaluation has demonstrated the need for ongoing support of the peaks' capacity building work.

This evaluation demonstrates the high volume and impact of the work done by the AOD peaks in Australia. The final report was distributed to relevant Ministers, members of parliament and key stakeholders. The report is available on the SANDAS website or in hard copy from the SANDAS office.

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## Media & Community Engagement

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Media coverage throughout the year concerning crystal methamphetamine usage led to numerous media enquiries and community forums. SANDAS has responded to these in various ways, including radio and TV interviews and inclusion in expert panels at forums.

The focus of the SANDAS response has been to communicate accurate information regarding the level of 'ice' usage based on latest available data and reinforce that effective treatment services are available.

## ***"Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid Training"***

Mental Health First Aid is the help provided to a person who is developing a mental health problem, or who is in a mental health crisis, until appropriate professional treatment is received or the crisis resolves. Mental Health First Aid strategies are taught in evidence-based training programs authored by Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Australia and conducted by accredited MHFA Instructors across Australia. This Aboriginal-specific adaptation of the MHFA course was run in multiple metropolitan and rural locations.

## ***"Crying on the inside: how to help AOD clients who have experienced trauma"***

Using a stepped-care model designed specifically for AOD services, this training allowed workers to identify their personal and organisational capacity and learn how to respond effectively within the resources available to them to assist clients who have experienced trauma: Trauma aware (Level 1 worker), trauma informed (Level 2 worker), or trauma specialist (Level 3 worker) modules were delivered.

## ***AOD and Community Services Sector Workers Supervision Training***

This training provided a framework for managers and supervisors to provide supervision to enable front line staff with the support they need whilst promoting organisational accountability, a better place to work and ultimately better outcomes for clients.

## ***"Recovery and Harm Reduction – Polar Opposites or Common Cause?"***

Although there are significant parallels in the mental health field and a growing evidence base, there remains considerable suspicion about recovery in the AOD sector globally, much of it attributed to advocates of harm reduction. Drawing on the example of the UK, the launch of this paper provided opportunity to outline some of the issues and their origins, identify areas of common ground and outline a model that suggests a way of interpreting these concepts in the AOD sector.

## ***"Methamphetamine: From Research to Practice"***

Run in partnership with NCETA and Flinders University and open to AOD and Mental Health workers, family support workers, frontline health and community workers, policymakers, supervisors and service providers, this forum provided opportunity for participants to:

- Gain an understanding of methamphetamine users
- Learn about patterns and trends of methamphetamine use
- Learn about latest policy, prevention and harm reduction responses
- Learn about best practice treatment and intervention options – what works
- Learn how to apply this information to improve responses to methamphetamine use.

## ***"Comorbidity: Challenges & Strategies"***

This two day workshop addressed the challenges and complexities of working with clients with co-occurring issues including drug and alcohol, mental health issues, and behavioural addictions. Specifically discussed were:

- The interaction between drug and alcohol and mental health issues in co-morbid clients
- The physical and psychological impacts of addiction – a review of the latest research
- Drugs used to treat AOD and mental health issues, their interactions and potential complications
- Emerging psychoactive substances, their addiction and mental health issues
- Dealing with co-morbid clients, treatments and conflict resolution.

## Strategy, Policy and Advocacy Committees and Reference Groups

*As the peak body of AOD NGO services in SA, SANDAS is represented on a variety of government, sector, and human services committees and reference groups.*

- Alcohol Causes Cancer Reference Group
- Alcohol Management Reference Group
- Alcohol Treatment Centre Study Advisory Group
- AOD Peaks CEO monthly meetings
- AOD/Comorbidity/Mental Health Quality Service Framework For Working With SE Asian and African Communities Network
- Comorbidity Networking Group (CNG) Project Officers' Meeting
- Criminal Justice System - Gambling Working Group Meeting
- DASSA Executive Meetings – relationship building with our core funder
- DASSA Stepped/Shared Care and Outcomes Measures Meetings
- Family Alcohol and Drug Network (FADNET)
- NFP Sector and Government Partnership Working Group
- Peaks Capacity Building Network (PCBN)
- SA Health Consumers Alliance Policy Council
- SA Justice Reinvestment Working Group
- SACOSS Policy Council
- SA Health Alliance
- Together SA Meeting
- Police Drug Diversion Initiative State Reference Group
- Southern Family AOD & MH Community of Practice
- SA Government NGO Stronger Together - Human Services Partnerships Forum
- SA Youth Alcohol and Drug Services Network (SAYADS)

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## SANDAS Membership

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### *ORGANISATIONS*

Aboriginal Prisoners & Offenders Support Services  
Aboriginal Sobriety Group  
Baptist Care  
Catherine House  
Centacare  
Drug Arm  
Encounter Youth  
Hepatitis SA  
Hutt Street Centre  
Life Education SA  
Life Without Barriers  
Mind Australia  
Mission Australia  
NOFASD Australia  
Northern Area Community and Youth Services  
OARS Community Transitions  
Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Service Inc  
Relationships Australia  
Substance Misuse Service  
Teen Challenge  
Towards Independence  
Umoona Tjutagku Health Service  
Uniting Communities  
Vietnamese Community in Australia  
Visible Recovery  
West Coast Youth and Community Support

### *INDIVIDUALS*

Andris Banders  
Barry White  
Hayley Hancock  
Jane Barr  
Kane Spooner  
Liz Jarrett  
Marion McKay  
Mark Anders  
Mark Hubbard  
Monya Murch  
Warren Martin

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## SUBMISSIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

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### *Submissions*

- Prime Minister's National Ice Taskforce
- Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee On Crime – Methamphetamine Inquiry
- Senate Select Committee on Health
- Competition Policy Review

### *Publications*

- SANDAS Position Paper No. 7: The SA AOD NGO Sector and Priorities for 2016 - 2020 - "Towards a Service System Framework"
- SANDAS Strategic Plan 2015 - 2018



204 Wright Street, Adelaide SA 5000

p (08) 8231 8818 | f (08) 8231 8860 | e [sandasinfo@sandas.org.au](mailto:sandasinfo@sandas.org.au) | [www.sandas.org.au](http://www.sandas.org.au)