



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

# 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



**South Australian Network  
of Drug and Alcohol Services  
9th Annual Report 2012-13**

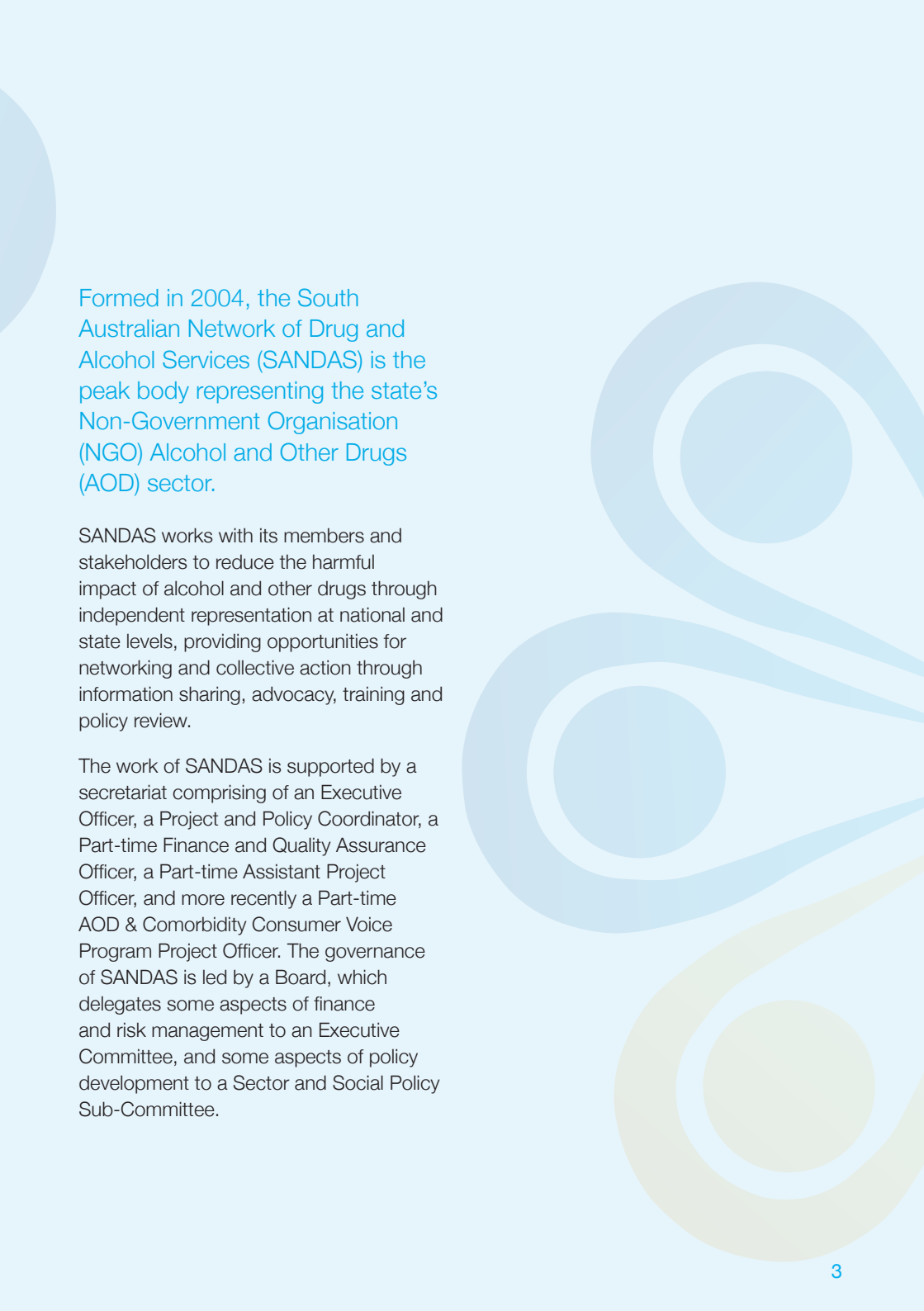
Published by the South Australian  
Network of Drug and Alcohol Services  
November 2013

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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 comprising of an Executive Officer, a Project and Policy Coordinator, a Part-time Finance and Quality Assurance Officer, a Part-time Assistant Project Officer, and more recently a Part-time AOD & Comorbidity Consumer Voice Program Project Officer. The governance of SANDAS is led by a Board, which delegates some aspects of finance and risk management to an Executive Committee, and some aspects of policy development to a Sector and Social Policy Sub-Committee.

## **SANDAS Board Members:**

Helene Nielsen  
Chair  
(Centacare)

Sam Raven  
Treasurer and Deputy Chair  
(Drug Arm)

Trevor Bignell  
Secretary  
(Individual Member)

Jeremy Davidson-Tear  
(Individual Member)

Karen Flenche  
(Salvation Army)

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

Erica Knapp  
(Anglicare SA)

John Langton  
(Grandparents For Grandchildren)

Leisha Olliver  
(Life Without Barriers)

My Phuong Sramek  
(Community Access and Services SA  
(CASSA))

Sarah Watson  
(Uniting Communities)

Andris Banders and Emily English  
(ex-officio)

## **Executive Committee Members:**

Helene Nielsen  
Sam Raven  
Trevor Bignell  
Andris Banders

## **Sector and Social Policy Sub-Committee Members**

Helene Nielsen  
Karen Flenche  
Michelle Mayes (OARS)  
Leisha Olliver  
Emily English (secretariat)

## **SANDAS Secretariat**

Andris Banders  
Executive Officer

Emily English  
Project and Policy Coordinator

Carol Mason  
Finance and Quality Assurance Officer  
(0.5)

Liz Gourlay  
Assistant Project Officer (0.5)

Kendall Silsbury  
Assistant Project Officer - AOD &  
Comorbidity Consumer Voice Program  
(0.5 – contract)

## Chair's Report

This has been a productive year for SANDAS with the introduction of several new initiatives, including the establishment of the Sector and Social Policy sub-committee, which has been working on developing the SANDAS position papers. These position papers help identify our stance and views on issues which impact the Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) sector, so that we can support members and respond to enquiries from a position which is supported by our members and board.

Another initiative which commenced in 2013, is the SANDAS Connector newsletter, a publication which focuses on topical issues for our sector, and has received contributions from a variety of eminent individuals and organisations.

SANDAS is also continuing the journey towards Quality Assurance, as well as initiating a project to enhance the consumer voice in our sector.

We also feel that positive steps have been made in strengthening the relationship between SANDAS (as the peak body representing the NGO AOD sector) and DASSA a funding provider and partner in service provision to the clients we all work with.

As the year is moving to an end we are entering interesting times, with announcements of cuts to the budget of DASSA and more and more scrutiny at both federal and state levels around the health budget. SANDAS considers this to be an area of future work in helping the sector to measure outcomes. We are looking forward to working with DASSA to further develop this area.

Thank you to the staff at SANDAS, whose energy and commitment have been the drivers behind the new initiatives to strengthen communication and the collective voice of the AOD NGO sector.

I would also like to thank the Board for their commitment throughout the year. We have made some changes to the structure, which has resulted in monthly meetings, and I would like to pass on my appreciation to the members for this.

Finally, I would like to thank Trevor Bignell, who was the chair of SANDAS from 2005-2012. Trevor continues to be the Secretary and a valued board member, whose experience and knowledge I am grateful to have been able to draw upon during my first year as Chair of this board.

Helene Nielsen

## Executive Officer's Report

This year has been worthy of Greek Classics – a year that launched a 1000 reviews. Something caused a stir at both state and federal levels in the first year of a three year funding cycle and now after a lot of preparation, at the time of writing; the sector is in full swing with all hands on deck.

The impact on the AOD sector, of the many reviews in South Australia and interstate, in additional work and consequences may well be significant. SANDAS has put considerable effort into building stronger connections within and across sectors knowing we need quality input and partnership to ensure we can prosper as the landscape changes.

With that in mind, on behalf of the staff, I would like to thank Helene Nielsen and our Board for continuing to show their commitment and ramping up their effort to move from six Board and Executive Committee meetings a year to twelve. Thanks are also extended to those Board members who gave their time to the newly formed Sector and Social Policy Committee. If the sector and cross sector response to position papers developed to date is any guide, this group will be a benefit to the future of our sector.

On a staff recruitment matter it is with pleasure we received into our fold Emily Johnson who in December became Emily English. As the SANDAS Policy and Project Coordinator she has already made a very positive impression and has already taken the opportunity to perform well as EO during my longer absences.

I also thank our Finance and Quality Improvement Officer, Carol Mason and our Assistant Project Officer, Liz Gourlay for the frequent times they put in above and beyond and the quality of their work both within the office and the times they represent our interests in external meetings, forums and networking opportunities.

The way forward for our sector is very likely going to be increasingly dependent on partnerships, alliances and collaborations. We have been working more closely with our funding bodies, SA Health – DASSA, and the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. The open door policy we practice has also seen us engage with several organisations feeling their way into new territory or avenues of innovation. Particularly pleasing has been the number of invitations and acceptances to meet with MPs from various political persuasions, and also requests to make submissions to parliament.

The relationship work of a peak body needs effective communication, and our newly revamped website has created a good response from within and from outside our sector. Our reformatted e-bulletin going out every 3 weeks reached over 350 recipients and our maiden voyage into print with The Connector has also received very good feedback.

There have been several highlights in the reporting year and the selection below is a sample:

- > Our national peak, the Alcohol and Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA) Board and its Federal Policy Council came to Adelaide to engage with the sector. ADCA now has state peaks representation on its Board.
- > SANDAS was invited to sit as a founding member on the South Australian Justice Reinvestment Group
- > SANDAS was also invited to sit on the reference group for a national research project, Alcohol Causes Cancer!
- > Along with other state AOD peaks we started participating in an inter-jurisdictional evaluation project into the effectiveness of the peaks in comorbidity capacity building

> Started work on our Comorbid Consumer Voice Program (CCVP) as part of our commitment to promoting the sectors with the consumers of services and the move to meeting the requirements of the National Safety and Quality Health Standards.

> Our website, which was launched at the 2012 AGM, has become a key interactive communication tool to the sector, with our position papers, submissions and Connector newsletters hot items for download. At the time of writing, the total downloads for the SANDAS position papers, over a 6 month period, are sitting at more than 1100.

SANDAS is fully aware that both State and Commonwealth financial positions will bear down on our sector at some point and in some forms yet to be more fully identified. The period ahead will need us to stay positive and to dig deep and to always seek, find and put a positive light on what we do, not for ourselves but for the individuals, families and communities that need what it is we are about.

Andris Banders

## Treasurer's Report

I have now completed my first year as Treasurer. After many years of service on the Board, I was excited to take on this role in the organisation. This was the first time I had taken on such a role and viewed it as a challenge and a professional development opportunity for myself, as well as a new way for me to further support an organisation that I have seen growing in importance to the AOD sector.

I would like to extend thanks to the staff and fellow board members for supporting me in taking on this role. In particular to Carol Mason who has displayed great patience with me as I developed an understanding of what is necessary in the management of finances for an organisation such as SANDAS.

The year has seen improvements in the financial systems of SANDAS and new reporting structures to the Board through the Executive Committee, and also monthly meetings with key SANDAS staff. As Treasurer, it has been my aim to support staff to keep the financial systems improving through appropriate and cost effective technology and software as well as ready access to myself and the Executive Committee. These changes are centred on getting better value from MYOB and the integration of the Standard Chart of Accounts (SCOA) which is a more standardised approach being expected by both state and Commonwealth funding bodies.

SANDAS has continued to use Kennedy & Co for the provision of external accounting and auditing services to ensure we meet

the Australian Accounting Standards at a high level. Also, we have improved efficiency through software by enabling Kennedy & Co by means of an 'invitation' to have access to our business information directly via the internet which lets them work on our accounts or with Carol directly.

Our major funders will continue to be SA Health (DASSA) and the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aging (DoHA) to 30 June 2015. In December 2012 DoHA granted SANDAS an appropriate allocation for the Social and Community Services, Equal Remuneration Order (ERO) Supplementation for the period. In August 2013 SA Health advised SANDAS of the amount of the 2012/13 Supplementation payment but to date no figures were included in the offer for the remaining period of the program. At the time of writing the data system has gone live. My report is supplemented by financial statements and the auditor's report to jointly meet the (12.9) Financial Reporting requirements of the SANDAS Constitution 2008. The reports confirm SANDAS is on a good footing but needs to keep a vigilant eye to the future.

It is also worth noting, that SANDAS is on track to meet its reporting obligations to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). As a registered charity we have to lodge a 2013 Annual Information Statement. This is due by 31 December 2013 and will report on activities for the 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 financial year.

Sam Raven



## **SANDAS 2012/13 Training calendar - highlights**

### **Safe Care of Intoxicated People**

This two day training module that deals with a frontline response for intoxication was delivered by Professor Charlotte de Crespigny and Andrew Biven to workers of organisation from western South Australia with a strong focus on those services that engage with Aboriginal people. This training was developed with the assistance of funding from FARE, and has been well received by workers and managers of those services. This aspect of capacity building in those services is highly relevant following a report by the SA Coroner into the sudden deaths of six Aboriginal people from Alcohol related causes.

### **Acceptance Commitment Therapy (ACT)**

SANDAS coordinated the attendance of 28 participants from the AOD sector to this 2 day workshop, which was well received by the sector.

### **Comorbidity Network Forum**

Comorbidity Network Forums are a joint initiative of CAMHS, DASSA and SANDAS. Aimed to be held on a quarterly basis, each organisation hosts on a rotation.

### **Crystal Methamphetamine (ICE) Training**

Provided by Nicola Cowling, from ANEX, this training day was oversubscribed, and well received by the sector. Advanced training will be looked into in the future.

SANDAS has also contributed to, and participated in, a range of other forums and training opportunities, to support specific and broader professional development in the SA AOD sector.

## Year in Review - highlights

### Justice Reinvestment

In March 2012, a public forum on Justice Reinvestment was held at Parliament House in South Australia. There were approximately 40 participants representing a wide cross section of interested parties including, Government, Corrections, SAPOL, Legal Sector, Aboriginal organisations, Victim Support Services, Academics as well as a number of individuals who have an interest in justice issues.

Following the forum a group of interested individuals either in their own right or representing a variety of organisations formed a working group which has been meeting almost monthly since under the title "Justice Reinvestment Working Group".

The key roles and responsibilities of the Working Group are to:

- > develop an agreed set of Justice Reinvestment principles and desired outcomes;
- > develop and implement a Justice Reinvestment Strategic Plan;
- > investigate and pursue funding options for implementation of the Justice Reinvestment Strategic Plan; and
- > provide information to government, parliamentarians, political parties, the media and other interested persons and organisations about the problems associated with current responses to crime in South Australia and the benefits of Justice Reinvestment as an alternative.

### Alcohol Causes Cancer!

The University of Adelaide in conjunction with the Cancer Council Australia (CCA), Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia (DASSA) and James Cook University are conducting the Alcohol Causes Cancer! study. This three year project is funded by the Australian Research Council with the purpose of obtaining data from the public of their perception of warning labels on alcohol containers and at points of sale. Ideally for the warning labels to have a positive impact on Australians we need to understand how different people will react to labels appearing on alcohol products.

A Project Reference Group of experts in the field has been established, of which SANDAS is a member, to provide high-level advice and feedback on all stages of the Project. In particular, in facilitating appropriate community and academic engagement, as well as dissemination of project progress and outcomes.

Annually in Australia more than 5000 cancer cases and approximately 1400 cancer deaths are accredited to long-term alcohol use. Nearly all Australians are aware of the harm alcohol misuse can have on individuals and society but most are still uninformed of the link between alcohol and cancer. Growing evidence now demonstrates that low and moderate drinking can increase the risk of developing cancer and it has been suggested we label all alcohol products to warn the community of the risk.

## **Comorbidity Consumer Voice Program (CCVP)**

SANDAS commenced the development of the CCVP with the view to supporting the NGO sector in meeting the requirements of Standard 2 – Partnering with Consumers – National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards. A core group of consumers was established to undertake planning and commence the process of identifying stakeholders and an action plan for engaging NGOs on this important issue.

## **Comorbidity Action in the North (CAN)**

SANDAS as one of the Chief Investigators of the CAN Project actively participated in the second year of this three year ARC Linkage Grant funded project. The engagement and participation of services and stakeholder from the Elizabeth and Salisbury LGA's was a feature of the year. The project underwent a very large challenging set of ethics approvals to finalise methodology and survey instrument. The survey process commenced and is expected to be completed by the end of the 2013 calendar year.

## **Grants and Governance**

In April 2013, SANDAS applied for and was successful in receiving one of five seeding grants of \$5,000 being offered nationally by Community Business Bureau. CBB was offering these grants to assist organisations to make greater use of emerging technologies, and in particular, cloud based data collection systems. Community Data Solutions (CDS), a leading CRM data provider based in South Australia customised their 'Sector Development' package database according to our needs. Using this database will assist SANDAS to meet the QI requirements under the Australian Service Excellence Standards (ASES).

## Submissions and Publications

### Submissions:

- > SA Government consultation on the Late Night Code
- > Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council Consultation on AOD VET qualifications – joint submission with AOD Peaks
- > Senate Inquiry into the Value of a Justice Reinvestment Approach to Criminal Justice in Australia
- > Senate Inquiry into the Value of a Justice Reinvestment Approach to Criminal Justice in Australia – joint submission with Justice Reinvestment Working Group
- > SA Health review of the SA Public Intoxication Act (not public)
- > SA Social Development Committee Inquiry into the Sale and Consumption of Alcohol (not public)
- > NIDAC Consultation for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

### Position Papers:

- > Justice Reinvestment
- > Women's Health
- > Comorbidity

### Other publications:

- > Inaugural SANDAS Connector Newsletter on Justice Reinvestment.
- > 'Comorbidity Action in the North (CAN) Research Project 'Stopping the run around' - Progress report to then Minister for Mental Health, the Hon. Mark Butler
- > Ethics overload; impact of excessive ethical review on comorbidity research – UK Journal of comorbidity  
As a chief investigator of the CAN Project SANDAS was a co-author of this paper.

SANDAS has also responded to various requests from print and television media, on a range of issues affecting our sector.

## 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.

DASSA Executive Meetings  
– relationship building with our core funder

SACOSS Policy Council

SACOSS Health Strategic Policy Advice Committee

Human Services Peaks Forum  
– Stronger Together

NFP Sector and Government Partnership Working Group

Together SA Meeting

Alcohol Management Reference Group

Comorbidity Action in the North (CAN) Project

FADNET

Inner City Assistant Network (ICAN)

Child and Adolescent Health and Comorbidity (CAHMS) Reference Group

AOD/Comorbidity/Mental Health Quality Service Framework For Working With SE Asian and African Communities

SA Justice Reinvestment Working Group

Alcohol Causes Cancer Reference Group

Comorbidity Networking Group (CNG)  
Project Officer's Meeting – DoHA representatives regularly attend

Peaks Capacity Building Network (PCBN)

CEO NGO AOD Peaks monthly meetings

SANDAS Sector and Social Policy Sub-Committee

ERO NGO transition forum

## Members

Bala, Ritu

Bignell, Trevor

Corrin, Drew

Davidson-Tear, Jeremy

McCaskill, Andrew

Monahan, Victoria

Silsbury, Kendall

White, Barry

Msema, Louis

Rochford, Helen

Tremain, Fiona

Aboriginal Prisoners & Offenders Support  
Services

Aboriginal Sobriety Group Inc

Anglicare SA

Baptist Care (SA) Inc

Centacare Catholic Family Services

DRUG ARM Australasia

Encounter Youth

Family Drug Support

GATS Counselling Services Australia

Grandparents for Grandchildren SA Inc

Hepatitis SA

Life Education SA

Life Without Barriers

MIND

Mission Australia

NOFASARD

Northern Area Community and Youth  
Services

OARS Community Transitions

Quit SA

Relationships Australia (SA)

SASSY [Substance Abuse Support  
Service for Youth]

SAVIVE (SA Voice for Intravenous  
Education)

Substance Misuse Service

Teen Challenge SA Inc

Towards Independence Network of  
Services

Umoona Tjtagku Health Service

Uniting Care Wesley Port Adelaide

Uniting Communities

Vietnamese Community in Australia/SA  
Chapter Inc

Visible Recovery

West Coast Youth Services Inc

SANDAS would like to acknowledge its funding partners,  
and thank them for their ongoing working relationship



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health and Ageing**



**Government  
of South Australia**  
SA Health



**fare**  
Foundation for Alcohol  
Research & Education



**COMMUNITY  
DATA SOLUTIONS**



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