

HOLYOAKE

AOD Community Prevention Service

Alcohol and other drug (AOD) use has significant impacts on all Australians, either directly and/or indirectly, including health, social and economic harms. In 2017-18, the social cost to Australians from alcohol use alone was \$66.8 billion (AIHW 2023 'Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Australia').

AIM: The Holyoake AOD Community Prevention Service aims to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities by preventing or delaying the onset of AOD use and reducing the harms associated with AOD supply and use.

The AOD Community Prevention Service will achieve this by engaging with, supporting and building the capacity of local communities to implement evidence-based and informed AOD prevention activities.

Estimated National costs

- Alcohol - \$66.8 billion (2017-18)
- Opioids (including illicit opioids and pharmaceutical opioid misuse) - \$15.76 billion (2015-16)
- Cannabis - \$4.5 billion (2015-16)
- Methamphetamine - \$5 billion (2013-14)

(NDRI 'Social and Economic Costs of Substance Use', <https://ndri.curtin.edu.au/>)



76% of alcohol-related road traffic fatalities occurred in regional WA

<https://www.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-07/2019-Preliminary-Summary-of-Fatalities-on-WA-Roads.pdf>



Aboriginal Australians are 5 times more likely to have an alcohol-related death and 3 times more likely to have a non-intentional drug related death

(AIHW 2023, 'Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs', <https://www.aihw.gov.au/>)



1 in 6 people in WA had used an illicit drug in the past 12 months

(AIHW National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2019)



180 alcohol-related Family Violence Assaults occur every week

(<https://www.police.wa.gov.au/crime/crimestatistics#>)



One West Australian is hospitalised for alcohol-related harm every 25 minutes

(<https://alcoholthinkagain.com.au/resources/alcohol-harm-statistics/>)

The AOD Community Prevention Service delivers AOD prevention services across 3 core streams:

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICERS

Establish, support and build capacity of up to 6 local Community Response Committees across the region.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE COMMITTEES

Through community consultation, develop & implement targeted 'grassroots' AOD prevention activities.

GRANTS

Annual funding of \$2000 for each Committee to implement AOD prevention and harm minimisation activities in their community.

MID WEST GOLDFIELDS GREAT SOUTHERN KIMBERLEY SOUTH WEST

Goldfields

REGIONAL SNAPSHOT

- **SIZE:** 770,488 Km²
- **POP’N:** 54,235
- **MEDIAN AGE:** 36
- **ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POP’N:** 5,086 (9.4%)
- **LANGUAGE GROUPS:** The Goldfields region covers the lands of the Wati & Mirning Peoples and incorporates approximately 16-17 language groups.
- **10 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES**



The Goldfields-Esperance region is the largest in WA, covering an area three times the size of Victoria. The Region’s diverse landscapes include the magnificent Great Western Woodlands, red deserts and white sandy beaches. The region has an abundance of natural resources and is an export hub, with local industries exporting across the world.

Key Community Concerns

- Influence of AOD use on young men and culture
- Excessive AOD use impacting mental health and risk of suicide
- AOD-related domestic violence



Presentation rates 100,000 population at Emergency Departments for AOD-related admissions per year in the Goldfields (978) were more than 2.5 times the WA rate (369).

(WAPHA 2022, ‘Goldfields-Esperance Needs Assessment 2022-24’)



31.1% of residents in the Goldfields and 21.4% in Esperance were at risk of long-term harms from alcohol consumption.

(WAPHA 2022, ‘Goldfields-Esperance Needs Assessment 2022-24’)



Goldfields had the second highest rate per 100,000 population for unintentional drug-induced deaths for regional WA (12.5/100,000).

(Penington Institute 2023, ‘Australia’s Annual Overdose Report’)

Meet Rebecca - your Community Engagement Officer

As a local member of the Goldfields community, I believe the AOD Community Prevention service gives us a valuable opportunity to customise AOD prevention strategies with our local community priorities in mind. I am excited to have this opportunity to work with regional communities and local community members across the Goldfields to build capacity and empower everyone to have a ‘voice’ through the opportunity to contribute to AOD prevention and harm reduction in our community.

I am originally from Perth and lived in various country towns in the South West before finally calling Esperance my home a few years ago. My tertiary studies in Social Science (Human Services) with a focus on Addiction Studies, combined with government and community sector experience incorporating youth education, health and disability services has given me a broad range of knowledge about the AOD challenges facing regional communities. My roles with Services Australia, Hearing Australia and NDIS, as well as participating in systemic advocacy with the Alcohol and Other Drug Consumer Community Coalition (AODCCC), has further expanded my experience with supporting children, families and community groups.

I have a passion for community sport and have supported Little Athletics and cricket clubs affiliated with WA Suburban Turf Cricket Association with the development and implementation of Healthy Club and Good Sports policies. These programs aim to assist clubs with addressing AOD risk management concerns to facilitate the creation of safe and inclusive environments for all members, a key pillar of harm minimisation and a major objective of AOD Community Prevention initiatives. I am looking forward to utilising these skills in supporting Goldfields’ communities.



Contact Rebecca on - rhealy@holyoake.org.au or 0477 139 855