

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



REGIONAL SNAPSHOT

- **SIZE:** 605,000 Km²
- **POP'N:** 64,518
- **MEDIAN AGE:** 41
- **ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POP'N:** 6,339 (9.8%)
- **LANGUAGE GROUPS:** The Mid West covers the lands of the Yamatji people, incorporating the Amangu, Naaguja, Wadjarr, Nanda and Badimia people, as well as the Martu people from the Western Desert.
- **21 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES**

Key Community Concerns

- Youth specific services & activities
- Vaping
- Youth alcohol and other drug use

Over half of the 53,000 population reside in Geraldton with other population hubs dispersed throughout the region. The Mid West hosts a rich diversity of industry that comprises mining, tourism, fishing and agricultural industries.



Residents of Gascoyne (39.3%) and Mid West (33.1%) are at greater long-term risk from alcohol consumption, having the second and fifth highest rates in WA respectively.

(Department of Health, Government of Western Australia 2023, 'Health and Wellbeing Profile 2023')



WA has the highest rate of unintentional drug-induced deaths in Australia at 8.8/100,000 population. Gascoyne had the highest rate in regional WA at 23.2/100,000 and Mid West was third highest at 9.3/100,000.

(Penington Institute 2023, 'Australia's Overdose Report')



AOD-related presentations to Emergency Departments in the Gascoyne region were 2 times higher than the state average and 1.6 times higher in the Mid West. 59% of these presentations occurred after hours.

(WAPHA 2022, Midwest Needs Assessment 2022-24)

Meet Beth - your Community Engagement Officer



I am passionate about creating a safer community within the Mid West, supporting communities in the region to implement co-designed, 'grassroots' AOD prevention activities. I have spent a large part of my adult life living in the Mid West working for a range of organisations that provide community and prevention services and it has been a priority for me to work collaboratively with government and non-government service providers, as well as local community groups.

My time in Community Policing and Family & Domestic Violence (FDV) Prevention in both Geraldton and Perth provided me with a greater understanding of the impacts of alcohol and drug use, not only on the individual themselves, but also on their family and wider community. I also gained

significant experience working for 2 years with the Mid West Mental Health and Community Alcohol and Drug Service (CADS) facilitating AOD and mental health initiatives in the Mid West.

I have always enjoyed bringing people together to brainstorm ideas and therefore am well placed to support Community Response Committees to develop solutions where everyone has a say, ensuring an 'all of community' approach to addressing identified AOD prevention needs.

Contact Beth on - bbrady@holyoake.org.au on 0472 575 852