

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.

South West

REGIONAL SNAPSHOT

- **SIZE:** 24,000 Km²
- **POP'N:** 184,516
- **MEDIAN AGE:** 38
- **ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POP'N:** 5,173 (2.7%)
- **LANGUAGE GROUPS:** The South West region of WA encompasses the Noongar ancestral lands of Wardandi, Wilman, Bibulmun/Piblemen, Binjareb/Pinjarup and Ganeang Peoples.
- **12 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES**



The South West region is the most populous and economically diverse country region in WA. Famous for its world class coastlines, the Region also boasts large farming and forest communities in the inland areas with approximately two-thirds made up of state, national and regional parks, and 25% occupied by agricultural and rural uses.

Key Community Concerns

- Lack of awareness of AOD support services
- Impact and harms caused by AOD use
- Underage drinking and secondary supply
- Alcohol in sporting and licensed settings
- Use of illicit drugs



In some LGAs in the region, alcohol-related hospitalisations are 25% higher than the state average, and hospitalisations for illicit substance use are 35% higher than the state average

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



Augusta-Margaret River-Busselton adults consume 14.2 litres of ethanol per day (3.1 standard drinks) compared to the state average of 11.9 litres (2.6 standard drinks per day)

(Cancer Council WA 'Alcohol Use in Western Australia: Drinking patterns and harms', 2021)



Between 2010-14, the Southwest averaged 6.8 alcohol related fatalities, the second highest in WA regional areas.

(Road Safety Commission 'Reported road crashes in Western Australia 2015')

Meet Corrie - your Community Engagement Officer



I believe there are many ways to improve our health and wellbeing. Often, the most effective place to start is with small, enjoyable steps that feel manageable and sustainable.

In my role as the South West Community Engagement Officer, I work alongside community members to co-design and facilitate programs that are shaped by the unique needs and priorities of each community. For the past 15 years, I've been raising my family in the South West and have come to understand both the strengths and challenges faced by regional communities. I believe strongly in the power of connection, collaboration, and community-led solutions to improve health outcomes and create lasting positive change.

With over 20 years of experience in health promotion, I am passionate about collaborating with communities to implement evidence-based strategies that enhance wellbeing across all ages — from young people to older adults. As a community, we have the opportunity to support one another on this journey — by actively listening, empowering each other and by building partnerships that foster the development of safe, welcoming spaces where inclusivity is embraced.

Contact Corrie on - cwright@holyoake.org.au or 0422 934 914