



Understanding alcohol and other drug workforce capabilities to inform capacity-building around the delivery of comprehensive smoking and vaping programs

Anke van der Sterren, Elisabeth Yar, Ava Gajdatsy, Anita Mills

No conflicts of interest to declare

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APSAD Conference 2025—Sydney, Gadigal—10 November 2025

ATODA acknowledges that this conference is being held on the traditional lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation.

ATODA acknowledges the Ngunnawal peoples as Traditional Custodians of the land we work on.

ATODA acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Māori and Pasifika peoples present at today's conference, and the contributions they make to alcohol and other drug research and the sector.





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Offering smoking & vaping support to ATOD service users

1 ACT ATOD service users



81.8%



Smokers when they first started to use the service



51.0%



Had used an e-cigarette in the past year

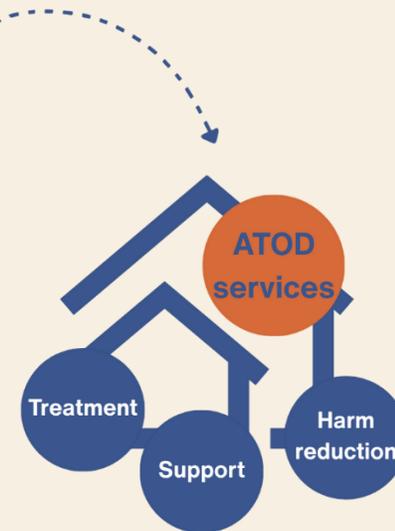
Source: Service Users' Survey of Outcomes, Satisfaction and Experience (SUSOSE) 2023



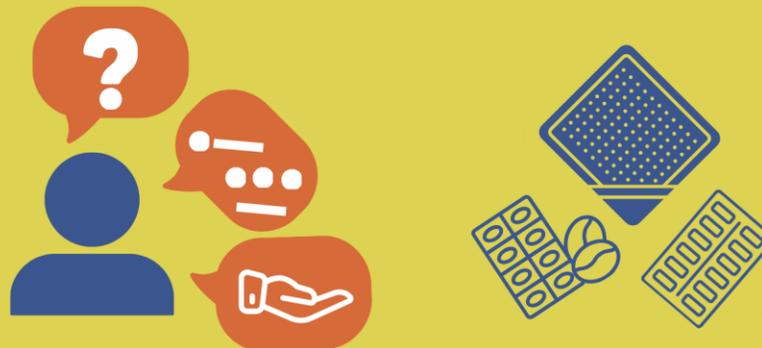
2 Positive outcomes with concurrent interventions



Sources (for example): ASAM, Integrating Tobacco Use Disorder Interventions in Addiction Treatment; Parks et al, 2025; 'Cigarette smoking during recovery from substance use disorders', JAMA Psychiatry, 82(10):1002-1008

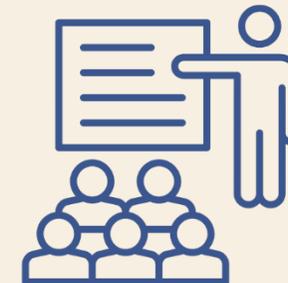


3 Effectiveness of BI, combination NRT + support



Source: RACGP, 2024, 'Supporting smoking cessation: a guide for health professionals'.

This is everyone's business



ACT ATOD Workforce Profile



? Smoking and vaping prevalence

? Self-assessed provision of smoking and vaping support

? Self-assessed capabilities to provide smoking and vaping support



? Smoking and vaping prevalence among ATOD workers

ACT ATOD service users

SUSOSE 2023



81.8%



Smokers when they first started to use the service



51.0%



Had used e-cigarette in the past year

ACT ATOD workers

ACT ATOD Workforce Profile 2024-25



22.5%

Current daily or occasional



17.8%

Current daily or occasional

ACT general population

NDSHS 2022-23



7.4%

Current daily or occasional

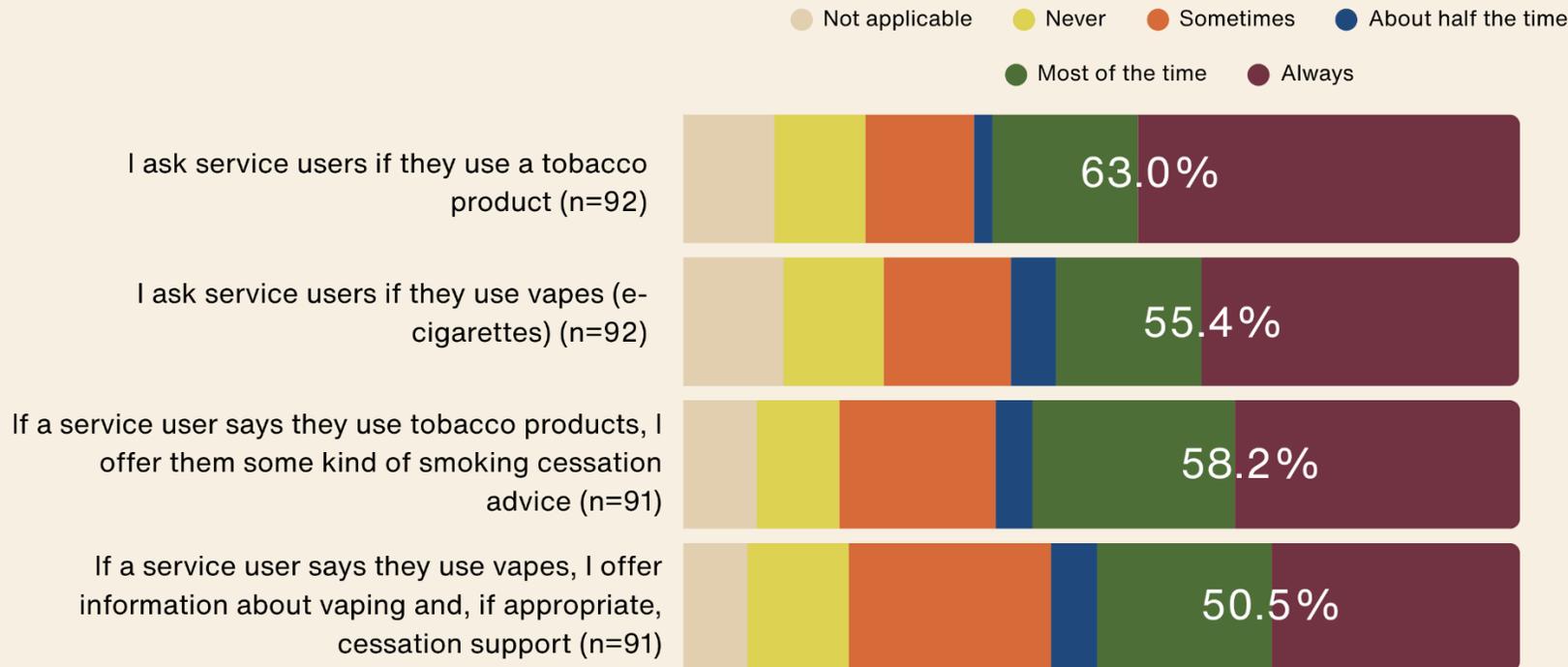


5.7%

Current daily or occasional



? Self-assessed provision of smoking and vaping brief interventions

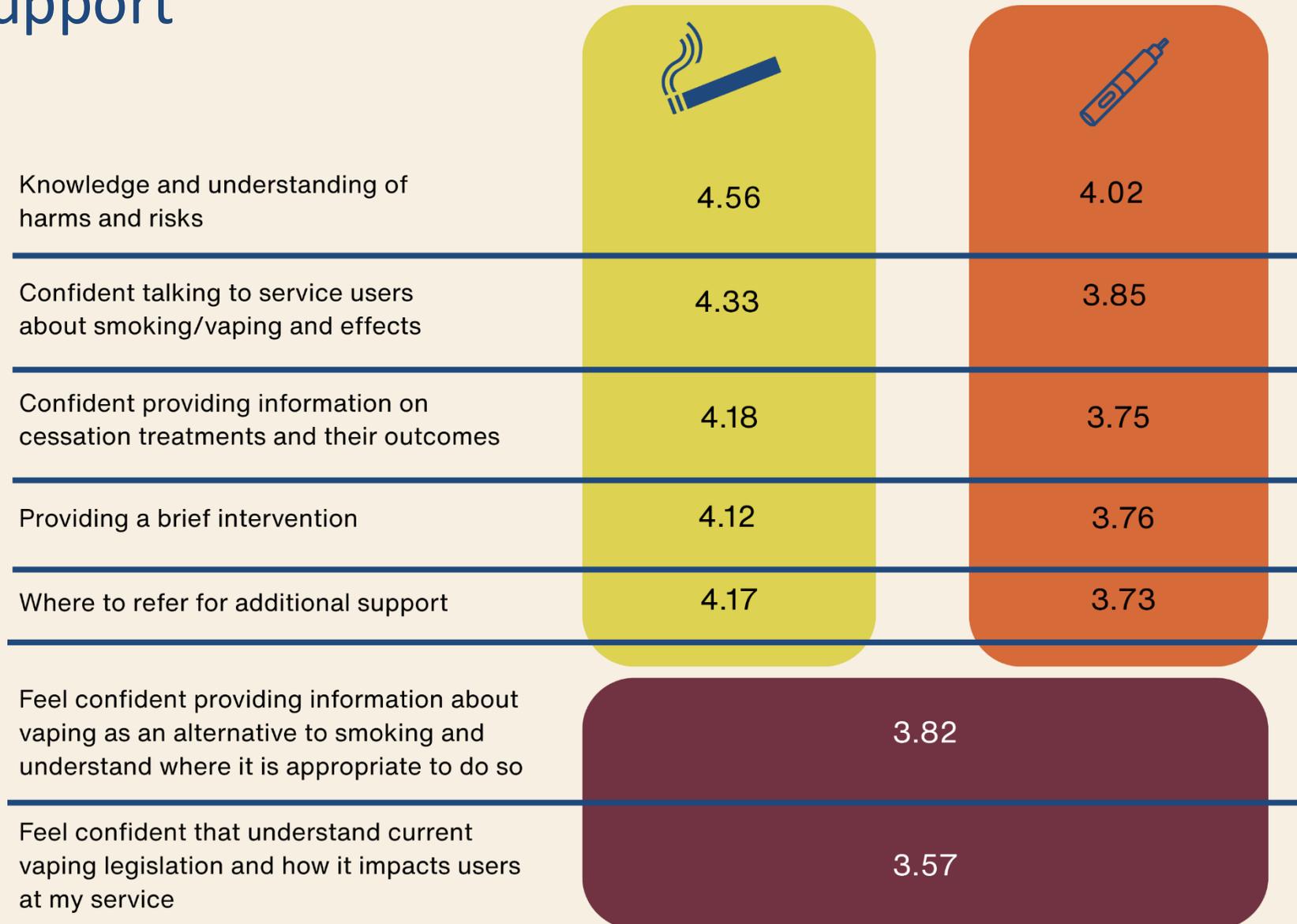


- High proportions offering Bls 'most of the time' or 'always'
- 'Asking' is not necessarily translating into 'advising' and 'helping'
- Lower proportions are providing Bls for vaping, compared to smoking
- Clinically significant proportions are 'never' or 'sometimes' providing Bls; or potentially believe it is out of their scope of practice



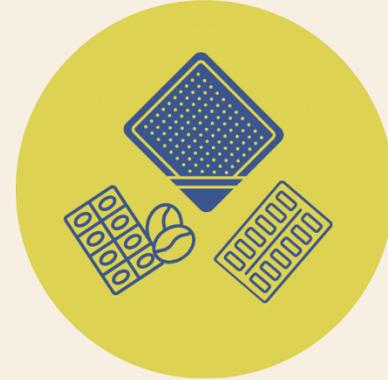


Self-assessed capabilities to provide smoking and vaping support



Reducing Nicotine Harms Project

NRT availability to service users and to workers



Training tailored to the needs of workers in the ATOD sector

- Offered to every worker in ATOD services
- Focus on vaping information and capabilities
- Moving beyond 'Asking' to 'Advising' and 'Helping'
- Specific to AOD context
- Harm reduction





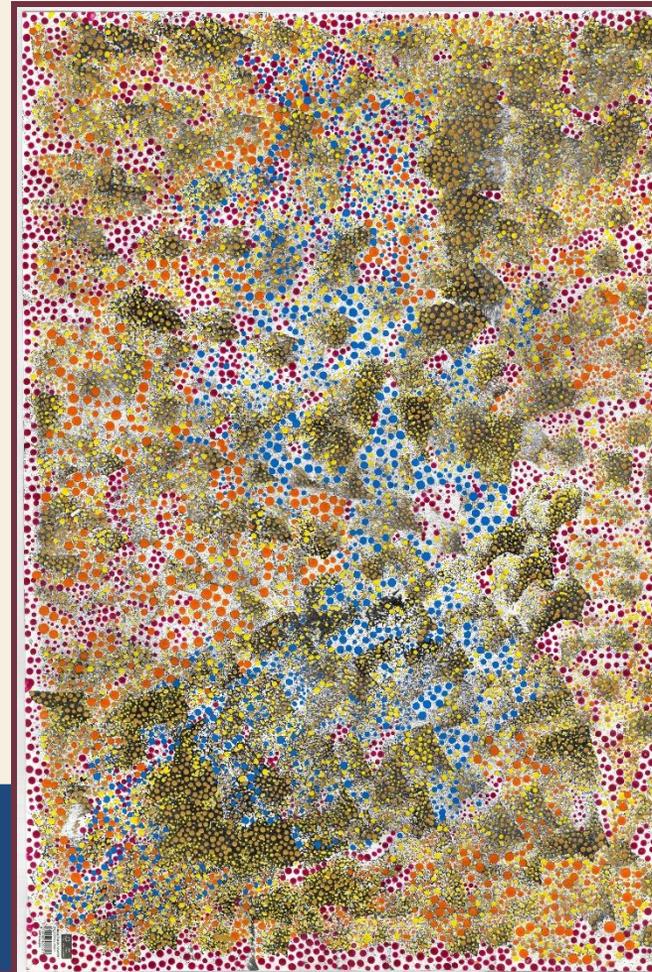
Alcohol Tobacco & Other Drug
Association ACT

Title: Unspoken
History, Map of Pain

Artist: Sharon

Date: 2020

To learn more, scan
the QR code or click
[here](#).



For more information:

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