

Building Connection, Capacity and Community: Launching a National Online Community of Practice for Alcohol and Other Drug and Mental Health Workers

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Funded by



Australian Government
Department of Health,
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Community of practice



- Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care
- Designed for professionals in Australia who work with people experiencing co-occurring AOD use and mental health conditions
- Overall goal is to positively impact the health outcomes of people who experience co-occurring AOD use and mental health conditions

>1656 community members since go-live in April
Join at community.comorbidity.org.au



Development and aims



- Development based on:
 - Evidence
 - Focus group consultations with stakeholders (involving clinicians, people with lived and living experience, family and loved ones, researchers)

- Aims:
 - Provide a platform where members can connect
 - Access evidence-based resources
 - Engage and collaborate with other professionals in this field
 - Enhance practice

Community of Practice tour



COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

For professionals in Australia who work with people experiencing co-occurring alcohol and other drug (AOD) use and mental health conditions.

Register now

Login

Email

 Required

Password

 Required 

Login

[Forgot password](#)



Homepage

Register or log in



Feed

1

Navigate through the website via the top menu

2

Contribute posts to your selected topics

3

Topics and posts are moderated by the Comorbidity team

1



Feed



Topics



Communities



Connections



Events



Info

Feed

Search feed



Take a tour

All

My topics



Erin

Share your thoughts...

2

Select a topic

General



Image

Poll

Post



Sally

19 May 2025 09:54

3

Moderator



General in Online community of practice

Upcoming Panel discussion

We are very excited to let you know about our upcoming Panel discussion: Challenges in integration and integrated care, psychedelic assisted therapies for addiction and mental illness.



Communities

1 Navigate to 'Communities' to see all available communities

2 Filter to see your communities, requests to join communities, or communities recommended for you

3 Suggest a new community

The screenshot shows the 'Communities' page interface. At the top, a navigation bar includes icons for Feed, Topics, Communities (highlighted with a purple circle and arrow labeled '1'), Connections, Events, and Info. Below the navigation bar, the 'Communities' section features a purple header with a lightbulb icon and the text: 'Join or suggest communities tailored to your interests creating focused spaces for connection and collaboration within our diverse membership.' Below this is a search bar labeled 'Search communities' and three filter buttons: 'My communities', 'Requests', and 'Suggestions' (highlighted with a yellow circle and arrow labeled '2'). A green circle with the number '3' and an arrow points to a purple button labeled 'Suggest a community'. The main content area is titled 'Suggested communities' and lists 'Public communities (10)'. Three community cards are visible, each with a circular icon, a title, and a 'Connect' button with a chevron arrow:

- Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Practitioners in Western Australia
- Rural, regional and remote workforce



Making connections

1 Navigate to 'connections' to see other members

2 Filter by pending requests to connect, existing connections, or members you haven't connected with yet

3 You can send a message to other members before requesting to connect

4 You can choose to accept or decline new connection requests

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with icons for Feed, Topics, Communities, Connections (highlighted with a circled '1'), Events, and Info. Below the navigation bar, the 'Connections' section is visible. It includes a search bar for 'Search all users' and three tabs: 'Connection requests', 'My connections', and 'New connections' (highlighted with a circled '2'). Under the 'Suggested connections' section, there is a dropdown menu set to 'Suggested' and a list of five members: Kathleen, Christina, An, Amanda, and Ashleigh. Each member has a 'Send request' button with a right-pointing chevron.

3 Request to connect

The dialog box shows a profile picture of a woman named Sally. Below the name, it asks 'Are you sure you want to connect with Sally?' and provides an option to 'Add optional message'. There is a text input field labeled 'Message' with the placeholder 'Enter your message'. At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'Cancel' and 'Connect'.

Connections

4 Accepting requests

The screenshot shows the 'Connections' page with the 'Connection requests (1)' tab selected. Below the search bar, there is a section titled 'Received requests (1)' which lists a single request from a user named Madhuvanathi. To the right of the name is a green 'Accept' button with a right-pointing chevron.



Events

1 Navigate to 'Events' to see upcoming AOD and mental health training events

2 Filter by events you've selected to attend, or other upcoming events

3 Can view as list or calendar

4 Internal (hosted by Comorbidity team) and external AOD and mental health events (conferences, seminars)

The screenshot shows the 'Events' page with the following elements:

- 1**: Points to the 'Events' icon in the top navigation bar.
- 2**: Points to the filter buttons: 'All', 'Your events', and 'Discover events'.
- 3**: Points to the 'List' and 'Calendar' toggle switch.
- 4**: Points to the event list, with callouts for 'Internal webinars and discussion panels' (covering PD and WC events) and 'External conferences' (covering TC and A2 events).

Events

Search events

List Calendar

All Your events Discover events

Your upcoming events

- PD** Panel Discussion on Considerations for Neurodiversity and Substance Use
Event date: Jun 10, 2025, 1:00:00 PM
- DA** DANA Annual Conference 2025
Event date: Aug 5, 2025, 10:00:00 AM

Discover events

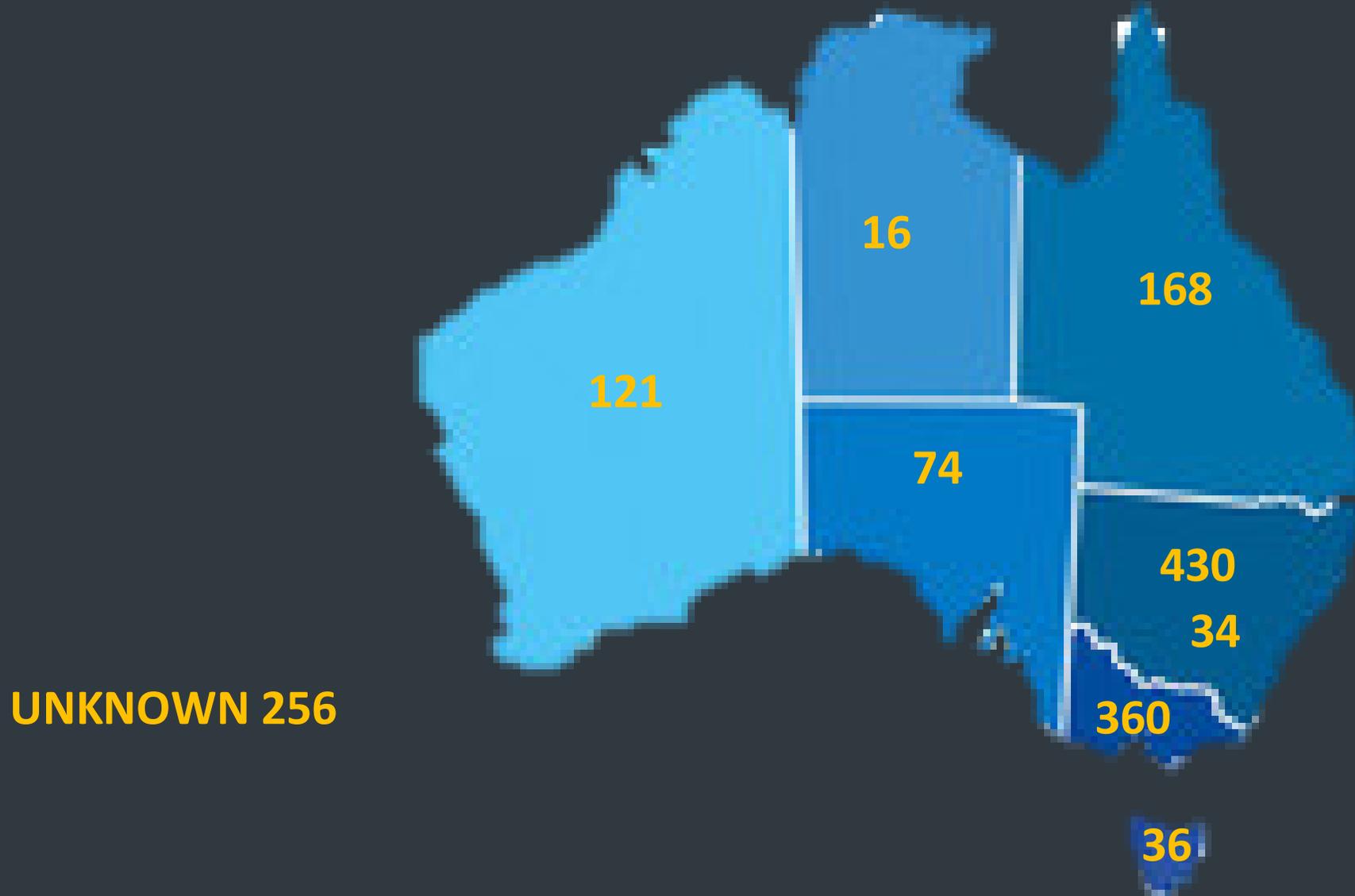
- PD** Panel Discussion on Challenges in integrated care: psychedelic assisted therapies for addiction and mental illness
Event date: May 21, 2025, 12:00:00 PM
- WC** Webinar: Considerations for Neurodiversity and Substance Use
Event date: Jun 3, 2025, 11:00:00 AM
- TC** TheMHS Conference 2025
Event date: Sep 1, 2025, 10:00:00 AM
- A2** APSAD 2025
Event date: Nov 7, 2025, 11:00:00 AM

Internal webinars and discussion panels

External conferences

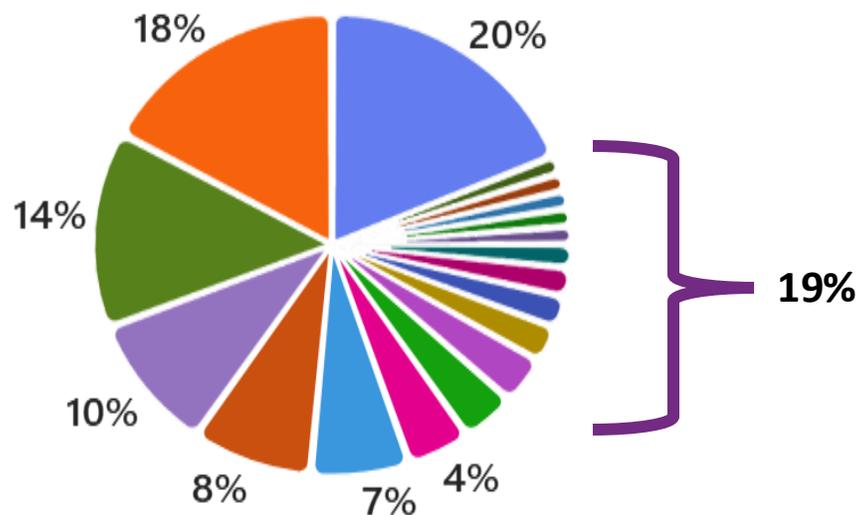


Geographic Distribution of Users





Professional Roles Represented



- Social worker (19.9%)
- AOD worker (18.1%)
- Counsellor (14.6%)
- Nurse (9.9%)
- Mental health nurse (8.5%)
- Psychologist (6.9%)
- Peer worker (4.3%)
- Lived/living experience role (3.7%)
- Educator (3.3%)
- Administration (2.4%)
- Residential support worker (2.1%)
- Trainer (1.8%)
- Researcher (1.4%)
- Occupational therapist (0.9%)
- Psychiatrist (0.8%)
- General practitioner (0.6%)
- Addiction medicine specialist (0.6%)
- Pharmacist (0.2%)

Engagement Metrics Over Time



Log-ins Per Month	
April	880
May	372
June	352
July	421
August	443
September	846
October	1558

What's working well?



- Engagement Through Notifications
 - powerful driver of engagement
- Email alerts
- Routine alerts
- Direct message
- Events



Events only available to Community of Practice members



Comorbidity Project webinars

- Available to everyone
- Overview from speakers on delivering evidence-based practice
- Delivered via Zoom
- Recorded and on-demand



CoP panel / case study discussions

- Only available to members
- Discussion panel with speakers, members ask questions specific to their own individual practice
- Delivered via Zoom
- Live event only, not recorded

Upcoming webinar and panel: Disasters, climate change and mental health

13th November, Professor Lisa Gibbs

Webinar Attendance



Month	Registered	Attended
April	828	317
May	504	145
June	779	321
July	912	360
August	1201	456
October	465	152

Hot Topics?

- Introductions
- Wellbeing Wednesdays
- Sharing of Resources



Lessons



- Notification functionality
- Events

Initial account activation	
Per Month	
April	812
May	178
June	155
July	183
August	212
September	75
October	129

The Future?

Living
Network



Supporting
AOD workforce



Connection



Practical
Tools



Evidence
based care



Improve outcomes for
people
experiencing
co-occurring conditions



COMMUNITY
OF PRACTICE

community.comorbidity.org.au

Join online



GET IT ON
Google Play



Download on the
App Store



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