

# Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander led research to understand treatment access and outcomes for First Nations people in the NSW NGO sector

APSAD Conference Presentation

Raechel Wallace & Nathanael Cutis

NADA acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, The Gadigal people. We extend this acknowledgement to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Australia and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

# NADA Member Services

- Total NADA Member Service: 87
- Total NADA Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Member Services: **18**



# Rationale to Establishing a Group

- 1 in 4 in NADAbase, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander
- Data Sovereignty
- Research partner publishing NADAbase data but not including Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people

# Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Research and Data Reference Group

**Established in 2023**

**A total number of 17 group members representing;**

- The diversity of Aboriginal communities
- Professional & Lived Experience
- Specialist NGO AOD services
- Data, evaluation and research

# Members:

Name	Position
Rachel Wallace (Co-Chair)	Aboriginal Program Manager, NADA & and Adjunct Research Professor Charles Sturt Uni
Nathanael Curtis (Co-Chair)	Aboriginal Research Officer, NADA
Alex Lee	Co-Chair of NADA Data and Research Advisory Group, CEO of The Glen
Angus Mason*	Aboriginal Research Officer   Advocacy Research Policy, Community Restorative Centre
Danielle Manton	Senior Lecturer, University of Technology and ADARRN board member
Doug James	Aboriginal AOD Researcher
Ethan Mullholland*	TGFM Outreach Coordinator, The Glen
Jade Vergona*	Project Officer, Aboriginal Corporation Drug and Alcohol Network (ACDAN)
Leanne Lawrence	Team Leader, Women and Children's Residential Rehabilitation Service, Waminda
Levii Griffiths	Senior Aboriginal Health Worker   SWSLHD Drug Health Services - Aboriginal Health
Lynette Bullen	Senior Drug and Alcohol Worker, IDAT, Orange Health Service, WNLHD
Mei Lin Lee	Senior Research Officer, NADA and Senior Research Fellow (Honorary), UoW
Melinda Bonham	Services Manager, Marrin Weejali and NPLG member
Michael Doyle	Associate Professor, University of Sydney
Peter Kelly	Professor and Associate Dean of Research, University of Wollongong (UoW)
Phillip Williams	Senior Health Promotion Coordinator, AH&MRC
Robert Stirling	CEO, NADA

# Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Research and Data Reference Group

## Responsibilities and Functions

- Determine NADA's research, evaluation and data priorities
- Provide advice
- Support decision making
- Provide feedback
- Work with NADA Aboriginal Program Manager & Aboriginal Research Officer

# Research Project

## Study Population

- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander People
- NADAbase
- Member Services
  - ACCO's, other Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander service and NGO's
- Episode and Outcome (substance use, psychological health and quality of life) data

	Overall (N=123053)	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (N=30871)	Non Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (N=92182)
<b>Year, closed episodes</b>			
2020/1	25481 (20.7%)	5866 (19.0%)	19615 (21.3%)
2021/2	23092 (18.8%)	5502 (17.8%)	17590 (19.1%)
2022/3	23581 (19.2%)	6010 (19.5%)	17571 (19.1%)
2023/4	23685 (19.2%)	5907 (19.1%)	17778 (19.3%)
2024/5	27214 (22.1%)	7586 (24.6%)	19628 (21.3%)
<b>Age groups, treatment entry</b>			
0-<18 years	13355 (10.9%)	5225 (16.9%)	8130 (8.8%)
18-<30 years	35304 (28.7%)	10011 (32.4%)	25293 (27.4%)
30-<40years	32620 (26.5%)	8654 (28.0%)	23966 (26.0%)
40-<50 years	25006 (20.3%)	4906 (15.9%)	20100 (21.8%)
50 years and older	16768 (13.6%)	2075 (6.7%)	14693 (15.9%)
<b>Age, treatment entry</b>			
Mean (SD)	34.7 (13.1)	31.0 (11.8)	36.0 (13.3)
Median [Min, Max]	33.8 [10.0, 89.0]	30.2 [10.0, 89.0]	35.3 [10.0, 89.0]

<b>Sex, at birth</b>			
male	75091 (61.0%)	17411 (56.4%)	57680 (62.6%)
female	45615 (37.1%)	12868 (41.7%)	32747 (35.5%)
not stated	2347 (1.9%)	592 (1.9%)	1755 (1.9%)
<b>Gender</b>			
man	75110 (61.0%)	17307 (56.1%)	57803 (62.7%)
woman	45998 (37.4%)	12945 (41.9%)	33053 (35.9%)
non-binary	189 (0.2%)	26 (0.1%)	163 (0.2%)
not stated	1756 (1.4%)	593 (1.9%)	1163 (1.3%)
<b>Employment</b>			
employed	21732 (17.7%)	2464 (8.0%)	19268 (20.9%)
benefits/pension/retirementfund	75975 (61.7%)	20386 (66.0%)	55589 (60.3%)
no income/dependent on others	12613 (10.3%)	4501 (14.6%)	8112 (8.8%)
others/not stated	12733 (10.3%)	3520 (11.4%)	9213 (10.0%)
<b>Accommodation</b>			
stable housing	97107 (78.9%)	23014 (74.5%)	74093 (80.4%)
unstable housing	8874 (7.2%)	2656 (8.6%)	6218 (6.7%)
prison or detention centre	3135 (2.5%)	1164 (3.8%)	1971 (2.1%)
treatment facility/hospital	1616 (1.3%)	357 (1.2%)	1259 (1.4%)
others/not stated	12321 (10.0%)	3680 (11.9%)	8641 (9.4%)
<b>Living</b>			
alone	30162 (24.5%)	6597 (21.4%)	23565 (25.6%)
partner and/or children	18315 (14.9%)	3739 (12.1%)	14576 (15.8%)
alone with children	6008 (4.9%)	1848 (6.0%)	4160 (4.5%)
friends/relative	51719 (42.0%)	13358 (43.3%)	38361 (41.6%)
others/not stated	16849 (13.7%)	5329 (17.3%)	11520 (12.5%)

	Overall (N=123053)	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (N=30871)	Non Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (N=92182)
<b>Stable housing</b>			
yes	97107 (78.9%)	23014 (74.5%)	74093 (80.4%)
no	13625 (11.1%)	4177 (13.5%)	9448 (10.2%)
not stated	12321 (10.0%)	3680 (11.9%)	8641 (9.4%)
<b>Remoteness of residence</b>			
metro	64956 (52.8%)	12227 (39.6%)	52729 (57.2%)
regional	50279 (40.9%)	15592 (50.5%)	34687 (37.6%)
remote	2459 (2.0%)	1555 (5.0%)	904 (1.0%)
unknown	5359 (4.4%)	1497 (4.8%)	3862 (4.2%)
<b>Remoteness of services</b>			
metro	70784 (57.5%)	15012 (48.6%)	55772 (60.5%)
regional	48591 (39.5%)	14071 (45.6%)	34520 (37.4%)
remote	1815 (1.5%)	1385 (4.5%)	430 (0.5%)
unknown	1863 (1.5%)	403 (1.3%)	1460 (1.6%)
<b>Main treatment type</b>			
counselling	38238 (31.1%)	7446 (24.1%)	30792 (33.4%)
withdrawal management	8790 (7.1%)	1818 (5.9%)	6972 (7.6%)
rehabilitation	31077 (25.3%)	8765 (28.4%)	22312 (24.2%)
maintenance pharmacotherapy	213 (0.2%)	39 (0.1%)	174 (0.2%)
support and case management	20555 (16.7%)	6894 (22.3%)	13661 (14.8%)
information and education	1369 (1.1%)	300 (1.0%)	1069 (1.2%)
assessment	16791 (13.6%)	4805 (15.6%)	11986 (13.0%)
others	6020 (4.9%)	804 (2.6%)	5216 (5.7%)

**Treatment settings**

community	76364 (62.1%)	17603 (57.0%)	58761 (63.7%)
home	1904 (1.5%)	965 (3.1%)	939 (1.0%)
outreach	4147 (3.4%)	1429 (4.6%)	2718 (2.9%)
correctional	759 (0.6%)	371 (1.2%)	388 (0.4%)
inpatient	3464 (2.8%)	622 (2.0%)	2842 (3.1%)
residential	36415 (29.6%)	9881 (32.0%)	26534 (28.8%)

**Types of clients**

own	119102 (96.8%)	29472 (95.5%)	89630 (97.2%)
other	3951 (3.2%)	1399 (4.5%)	2552 (2.8%)

**Types of treatment completion**

all others	55246 (44.9%)	15066 (48.8%)	40180 (43.6%)
completed	67807 (55.1%)	15805 (51.2%)	52002 (56.4%)

**Primary substance of concern**

heroin	5702 (4.6%)	1645 (5.3%)	4057 (4.4%)
cocaine	2492 (2.0%)	265 (0.9%)	2227 (2.4%)
nicotine	3428 (2.8%)	1609 (5.2%)	1819 (2.0%)
meth/amphetamines	37097 (30.1%)	11452 (37.1%)	25645 (27.8%)
other stimulants	40 (0.0%)	11 (0.0%)	29 (0.0%)

	<b>Overall (N=123053)</b>	<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (N=30871)</b>	<b>Non Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (N=92182)</b>
alcohol	43973 (35.7%)	7763 (25.1%)	36210 (39.3%)
cannabis	21256 (17.3%)	6115 (19.8%)	15141 (16.4%)
other opioids	1933 (1.6%)	420 (1.4%)	1513 (1.6%)
benzos/cns depressants	2155 (1.8%)	423 (1.4%)	1732 (1.9%)
others	4977 (4.0%)	1168 (3.8%)	3809 (4.1%)
<b>Other substances of concern</b>			
none	65965 (53.6%)	14704 (47.6%)	51261 (55.6%)
single	37238 (30.3%)	10550 (34.2%)	26688 (29.0%)
two	13063 (10.6%)	3729 (12.1%)	9334 (10.1%)
at least three	6787 (5.5%)	1888 (6.1%)	4899 (5.3%)
<b>History of injecting substances</b>			
injected	29177 (23.7%)	9278 (30.1%)	19899 (21.6%)
never	76806 (62.4%)	16348 (53.0%)	60458 (65.6%)
not stated	17070 (13.9%)	5245 (17.0%)	11825 (12.8%)

# NADA Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Data Sovereignty Statement

We proudly acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters throughout Australia. At NADA, we respect and value the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Data Sovereignty. NADA is the data custodian for all data that is input into NADAbase\*. However, this data is owned by our members and the people who access their services. We understand the privilege and responsibility we hold as custodians recognising that approximately 25% of all data in NADAbase are for episodes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It is critical that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people lead how NADA interacts, analyses and translates data to be of benefit to the community and member services in a manner that is culturally appropriate, safe and respectful.

# Thank You

## Contact Details:

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