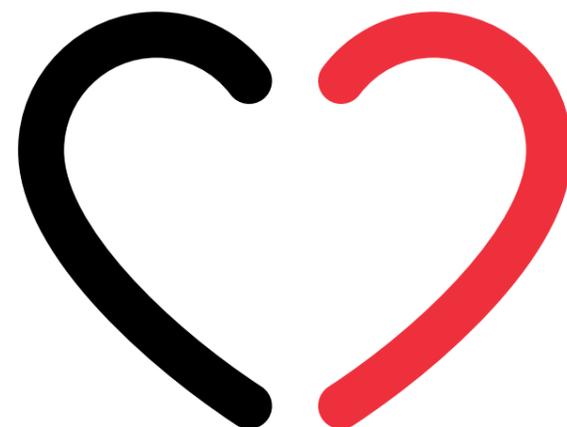


Our Organisation.

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CEO message

I write this at the end of 2016, it's been an incredible year. For us, it's been a year of change and preparing for the future – and never before have we as an organisation been better prepared.

We have a terrific team and a truly great capacity to get the job done. Adaptability, courage, impact and collaboration are not just organisational values that are on posters around our offices, they truly are demonstrated by our people, and I couldn't be prouder.

As I look around the broader alcohol and other drug (AoD) sector I'm also heartened, for it seems that there is a willingness to do things differently. The Local Drug Action Team program is a case in point – enabling and supporting communities to tackle local drug issues and harms is just so important, and we acknowledge the significant support of the Australian Government in making this happen. Thanks to the recently announced additional federal funding, we now have an opportunity to grow community-wide support for action towards the reduction of alcohol and drug harms in our local communities.

A focus on prevention of drug harms is becoming more and more acceptable, even internationally, which is heartening given the appalling outcomes we have seen from the 'war on drugs' approach.

We are well placed as an organisation to extend our prevention focus from the highly effective Good Sports program, now in over 7,000 sporting clubs in Australia, to work on the reduction of drug and alcohol harms across the broader community.

As always this work is evidence-informed. We have made bold investments in people, platforms and data-capturing to ensure that we can also build on this evidence base.

We hope that over the coming years these emerging changes will have significant benefits for the Australian community, in a country which is currently among the highest users of alcohol and other drugs in the world.

Ultimately, what's most important is the change we're creating in the communities around us. We're proud to be continuing this work, with our eyes fixed on long-term change that will result in stronger, healthier communities for all of us.

John Rogerson
CEO, Alcohol and Drug Foundation
December, 2016





Who we are

Celebrating more than 57 years of service to the community, the Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF) is one of Australia's leading organisations committed to preventing alcohol and other drug harms in our communities.

We were established in 1959 by Weary Dunlop and a group of concerned citizens in response to what was seen as a crisis of alcoholism in the community. Many of those struggling with dependency were returned servicemen, battling with the trauma of war. An empathetic and humane approach has always been central to our work.

From modest beginnings, the ADF continues to evolve. Trauma continues to be a major factor for individuals and communities who find themselves facing the challenge of alcohol and other drug misuse. To help overcome this, we are increasing our focus on building safe, healthy and resilient communities.

We know that strong communities are the best way to prevent future harms. We are proudly evidence-based and independent. We bring expert knowledge and research into the design and implementation of our programs.





Our purpose

To prevent the harm caused by alcohol and other drugs in Australia.

Every year in Australia:

5,500 people die from alcohol-related injuries, illness and accidents.

157,000 people
are hospitalised due to alcohol.



More people die from drug overdoses, including from pharmaceuticals, than die on the roads.



The cost to the community from alcohol-related harm is estimated to exceed

\$15.3 billion.

For illegal drugs it exceeds

\$8.2 billion.



All of this is preventable.



“More than ever, we are a purpose-driven and values-based organisation, working with communities and social change agents across the nation to prevent harm from alcohol and other drugs.”

Where we are heading

As an organisation, the ADF is preparing for a future where our prevention focus is extended to reducing drug and alcohol harms in the broader community.

More than ever, the ADF of the future is a purpose-driven and values-based organisation, working with communities and social change agents across the nation to prevent harm from alcohol and other drugs. The reach and impact of our programs has dramatically increased through the successful leveraging of digital platforms and initiatives. Our messages and programs reach Australians everywhere.

We are community-centred and continue to deliver place-based community programs, working across settings. Feedback from our community citizens and programs continuously informs our program design and development.

We continue to value and prioritise the role of evidence and ensure that our program outcomes are measurable. At the same time we are committed to continuous learning, agility, and innovation.

Our structure supports effective governance and high-impact delivery; it supports cross-sector collaboration and the open sharing of knowledge. We prioritise effectiveness and efficiency, ensuring our funding has the greatest impact possible.

A vision for our future

At the Alcohol and Drug Foundation, we see and work towards a future where Australia's attitude to alcohol and other drugs is unrecognisable from today's.

In this future, there is a common understanding of the need for preventative approaches to address health issues and prevent harms across the whole of society. Work that encourages and enables community connection and social inclusion has become the mainstay of a cross-sector primary prevention approach that the ADF is very much a part of.

It is well known that strong, healthy communities have strong pathways to quality education and employment and encourage connectedness among their citizens. In the future, good, affordable housing, green spaces, support services and public health care are present by design and prioritised. This is what primary prevention is really about, and we can all ensure that these are the issues we keep in focus.

There is an understanding that drug dependencies and addictions are health issues, not criminal issues, and the ADF is working in ongoing partnership with government and other services to reform the way we prevent AoD harm.

Australia's drinking culture has shifted – we see a measurable reduction in these harms. And underage drinking, the supply of alcohol to teenagers, and drinking to excess have fallen out of favour.

Young people tend to start drinking later and it is no longer seen as an adolescent rite of passage.

Australians are no longer among the world's leading consumers of prescription and illicit drugs.

The places we gather and our favourite forms of entertainment are no longer compromised by confusing messaging from alcohol brands. The ADF has had a hand in creating this shift.

We see a future where our communities are strong, and support people who are at risk of developing harmful drug behaviour, allowing those of us who do find ourselves in a tough spot to be noticed and supported without stigma. When communities can support their members when things are tough, or not going as expected, it changes everything – there is hope for the future.

“Those of us who do find ourselves in a tough spot can be noticed and supported without stigma.”

**“The best way
to predict the
future is to
create it.”**

Peter F. Drucker
Professor and writer

How we work

Our mission

We work in partnership with communities, government, business and the for-purpose sector to create sustainable social change that supports health and well-being for all.

We are community-centric

We support communities to build their capacity to create change and determine their own futures. We co-design our programs with the community, valuing their strengths and uniqueness. Our community development frameworks, along with our program and service delivery, are supported by the latest evidence.

We prioritise partnerships and collaboration

We build strong alliances that benefit communities, help deliver positive outcomes and strengthen our collective impact. We are generous with our knowledge and insight when dealing with our partners and communities. Our approach is reflected in an organisational culture of collaboration and innovation.

We influence change in policy, systems and institutions

We constantly engage in dialogue, advocating for policy reforms that support the needs of communities. Our communities, staff and key stakeholders are knowledge leaders with clear understanding of the critical issues and current research. We are united around core advocacy positions.



Our values

As a purpose-based organisation, our values are of paramount importance. These values inform the culture we build, how we engage with the communities we serve, how we strive for our goals and how we maximise positive outcomes through our work.

Courage

We work with purpose, say what we believe and advocate for the change we want to see.

Collaboration

We work in partnership, co-designing our programs with the community.

Adaptability

We cultivate purposeful innovation and we are committed to continuous improvement.

Impact

We focus on change that creates long-term impact.





Our practice model

Our purpose is to prevent alcohol and other drug harm in Australia – and to see true change in this area, we know that primary prevention is key.

Promoting safe and healthy communities

There is a broad consensus that drug law enforcement is not ‘working’ and we urgently need better solutions. Reporting on the National Ice Taskforce consultations in 2015, Minister Fiona Nash observed that from Lismore to Geraldton, police said the same thing:

“We can’t arrest our way out of this.”

Socially inclusive communities and families can support those in need and foster resilience. Resilient individuals can adapt to changes and negative events more easily and reduce the impacts that stressors have on their lives – and they are less likely to use drugs. Resilient and inclusive communities are characterised by strong social networks and work together to support individuals who need assistance.

As an organisation we are focused on primary prevention for the long term, and we will continue to engage with organisations delivering secondary and tertiary prevention measures to minimise harm in the short term.

What is harm prevention?

Primary prevention

Primary prevention addresses the causes of diseases or harm within the community. This includes strategies to protect people from developing alcohol or other drug related problems.

We know there are both risk and protective factors that influence the likelihood of harm from alcohol or other drugs. Risk factors include unemployment, having a high sense of disconnection from other people, trauma, poor mental health and lack of hope – combined with availability and peer use of drugs.

Protective factors include the development of recreational pursuits, positive relationships with parents, family members and other role models, being engaged in a school or community environment, and spiritual beliefs. These can all help limit or minimise exposure to risky behaviour around alcohol and other drugs.

With this in mind, at the ADF we prioritise work to build safe, healthy and resilient communities with low prevalence of risk factors and high prevalence of protective factors.

Secondary prevention

Secondary prevention promotes safety for those who have already used alcohol or other drugs and is directed towards people who have a higher or specific risk of serious harms. For the ADF this might include initiatives aimed at young people who have been exposed to drug-taking behaviour (e.g. drug-checking at music festivals), or at cohorts at risk of developing prescription medication dependency (e.g. live monitoring of pharmaceutical drug prescriptions).

Tertiary prevention

The goal of tertiary prevention is to help people with ongoing alcohol or other drug problems, and any resulting health conditions, overcome them or improve their quality of life. Though tertiary prevention isn't an area of focus for the ADF, we do refer people to treatment providers, advocate for drug consumption rooms to reduce drug use and associated risks, and advocate for the distribution of anti-overdose medications like naloxone.



Our programs

Grounded in a settings-based approach, our programs work to create cultural change in specific environments, changing practices and attitudes to create healthier and safer places to live, work and play.

Sporting clubs – Good Sports

Good Sports is a national, three-step accreditation program for community sporting clubs. It focuses on alcohol management as a way to change the drinking culture in clubs, and in its 16-year history has shown positive and significant results for the clubs and members who have been involved. There are currently over 7,000 clubs involved in the Good Sports Program, making it Australia's largest sport-based health program.

We give volunteers the resources, training and guidance they need to face challenges head on. With our program recently expanding to include components focusing on healthy minds and healthy eating, as well as on other legal and illegal drugs (particularly crystalline methamphetamine, or 'ice'), we're helping to make Australian sporting clubs happier, safer and more family-friendly places to connect and enjoy sport.

Good Sports is the first program of its kind in the world to be proven successful. Research has demonstrated that the Good Sports program reduces the likelihood of risky drinking in clubs by 37% and the likelihood of alcohol-related harm in clubs by 42%. Modelling suggests that \$4 of economic benefit is returned to the community for every dollar invested in Good Sports.

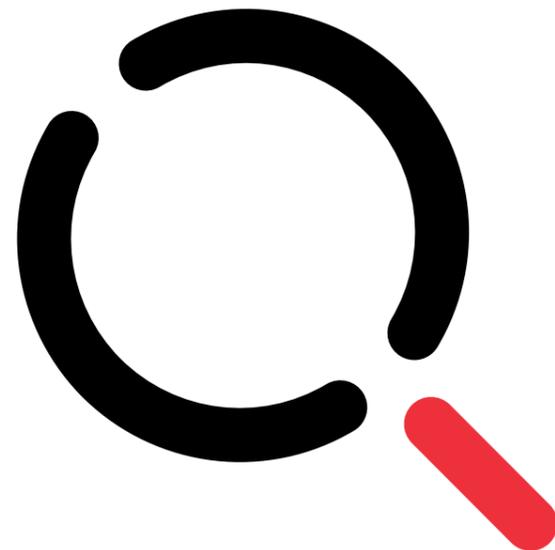


“Modelling suggests that \$4 of economic benefit is returned to the community for every dollar invested in Good Sports.”

Community Engagement Action Program (CEAP), NSW, Community

The ADF oversees the coordination and operation of Community Drug Action Teams (CDATs), who work together to reduce alcohol and other drug harms in their local communities.

With approximately 75 CDATs already in place across NSW, the ADF has recently been awarded significant funding to design and deliver a new national Local Drug Action Team program. Blending the best of our on-the-ground community delivery methods with digitally enabled peer-to-peer learning, this next stage in the evolution of our Drug Action Teams will see community-led initiatives achieve greater scale and efficiency, supported by an expert team providing guidance and best practice leadership.



Local Drug Action Teams (LDAT), National

The LDAT program has been funded by the Australian Government as part of the response to the Final Report of the National Ice Taskforce 2015.

The Australia-wide program will be implemented by the Alcohol and Drug Foundation between 2017 and 2020. It provides a platform and resources to help communities develop and deliver evidence-informed social change projects that prevent and reduce alcohol and other drug harms and issues.

By 2020 there will be up to 220 communities involved in the program. Communities are encouraged to form groups with cross-sector representatives and apply to become an LDAT.

Over the coming years, a wide range of resources will be developed to support communities to implement evidence-informed approaches to alcohol and other drug harm prevention.

Our manifesto

At the ADF we believe that an Australia free from alcohol and drug harm will be an Australia that's safer and healthier for us all.

We know real change can only come from a 'whole of community' approach, so our efforts are focused on working collaboratively with the community to deliver results with measurable long-term impact.

We believe in using the latest research and insight to inform and develop primary prevention policy and practice that reduces the impact of alcohol and other drug misuse in the community. Our work draws on research into alcohol and other drugs and the most recent thinking in community development and mental health to develop innovative approaches to addressing the underlying causes of harm.

We bring a collaborative approach to everything we do, because we know that only by working together can we prevent those at risk from falling into harm's way.