

Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board (AODAB)

Members profile

Members are appointed by the Minister for Mental Health based on their leadership, experience, knowledge, interest and expertise in the AOD sector and do not represent specific organisations or professions.

To ensure the advice provided is considerate of the diverse perspectives, members are likely to have expertise in AOD issues in the following areas.

- Community sector, regional services
- Aboriginal, multicultural sector
- Prevention, Treatment, Recovery
- Youth, older adult, people with disability
- Public Health
- Addiction Medicine
- Academia and research
- Law Enforcement

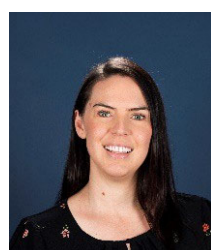
Members are appointed for an initial term of up to three years and considered for reappointment at the discretion of the Minister. Members can serve a maximum of 2 consecutive terms.



Chair: Professor Steve Allsop

Steve has been involved in alcohol and other drug prevention, treatment and policy research and practice, and service management for over 40 years, working in services government and academic positions. In recent years he has worked extensively in community and national prevention initiatives. He has been the Director of two Australian national drug research centres, in Adelaide (National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction - NCETA - until 2000) and subsequently Perth (National Drug Research Institute - NDRI - until 2016), and for many years he worked with the Western Australian Government Drug and Alcohol Office. He is currently a Professor at the NDRI, Curtin University, Board Director Australian Drug Foundation, a member of the Australian National Advisory Council on Alcohol and other Drugs and a member of the National Suicide Prevention Office Advisory Board.

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Deputy Chair: Julia Stafford (she/her)

Julia's career to date has combined academic research and policy advocacy in the public health field, with a focus on alcohol harm prevention. She is currently the Alcohol Program Manager at Cancer Council WA (on parental leave July 2022 – May 2023), with associated roles including chair of the alcohol working group across the Cancer Council federation, executive committee member of the National Alliance for Action on Alcohol, and board member of the WA Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies. Julia is an active member of the Public Health Association of Australia via the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Special Interest Group. Julia is also a PhD Candidate enrolled with the National Drug Research Institute at Curtin University and her research investigates the roles of vested interests in alcohol policy development processes in Australia. Julia previously held roles within Curtin University (2007-2020) with a focus on alcohol harm prevention and public health advocacy.



Miriam Rudd

Having experienced the last 18 years of a loved one living with drug and alcohol addiction, Miriam is a passionate representative of her experiences as a parent. During her 4 years on the AODAB Miriam brings a wealth of knowledge and understanding from the family and carers perspective.

For eight years, Miriam has been involved with the Parent and Family Drug Support Line in Perth listening, supporting and talking to other parents about their loved one's drug and alcohol issues as well as working in the Drug Court talking to family members of participants. Miriam has a diploma in counselling and has completed many short- and long-term courses in regard to learning more about drug addiction. Miriam has close personal experience of the consequences of drug taking including through the hospital, mental health and justice systems.

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Commander Lawrence Panaia APM

Since joining the WA Police Force and graduating from the Police Academy in 1986, Lawrence has served in various operational roles in Metro, Regional WA and State Crime portfolios. His current role includes oversight of Licensing Enforcement Division which includes the Alcohol and Drug Policy Unit focusing on harm minimisation.

Lawrence has also been involved in many other community causes including 6 years as Chairman of WA Police Legacy, previous board member of PCYC, and currently serving on the Constable Care Safety Foundation Board.

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Ethan James

Ethan has worked in alcohol and other drug systems advocacy and end engagement since 2016. His role involves representing and supporting sector practice expertise policy, planning and commissioning. He also oversees strategic projects supporting sector workforce planning and development.

Ethan increases the visibility of the WA AOD sector through government and cross-sector engagement and develops practical solutions that seek to enhance the sector's operating environment. Ethan has a background in policy, program development and contracting across multiple sectors and state/federal government portfolios.

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Nafiso Mohamed

Nafiso is a young Somali Australian who has a passion for working in international policy and research and has a keen interest in service accessibility, inclusion and equity. In 2020, Nafiso completed an internship at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in Amman, Jordan, where she focused on combining gender mainstreaming with targeted interventions for women and girls as a tool to bridge historical gaps in gender equality, participation and access to services.

In 2019, she undertook research in Economic Development and Social Policy at the Centre for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan. Nafiso has engaged in various advocacy and mentor-based programs that support the inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse communities in Australia through policy development and research evaluation. Having graduated from Curtin University, Nafiso is an advocate for empowering and engaging young people to shape the policies that influence their lives through her work with government and non-government organisations. She currently works for Services Australia and continues to advocate on the intersections of gender equality, multiculturalism and human rights to shape policies that influence lives of refugee and migrants living in Australia.