

Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board (AODAB)

Members profile

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

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

- Community sector and regional services
- Aboriginal sector
- Multicultural sector
- Prevention, Treatment and Recovery
- Youth, older adult and people experiencing disability
- Law enforcement
- Public health
- Academia and research
- Psychiatrists and / or Addiction Medicine Specialists
- Lived and Living Experience (consumer and significant other)

Members may be appointed for an initial term of up to three years and considered for reappointment at the discretion of the Minister.

The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson can serve a maximum of two consecutive terms in those roles.

Individual membership should not exceed 10 years in total.



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 National Suicide Prevention Office Advisory Board, and a member of Relationships Australia (WA) 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, with associated roles including deputy chair of the Cancer Council nutrition, alcohol and physical activity committee and deputy chair of Alcohol Change Australia. 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 member of the Mental Health, Wellbeing and Alcohol and Other Drugs Ministerial Advisory Panel. 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 20 years of a loved one living with drug and alcohol addiction, Miriam is a passionate representative of her experiences as a parent. During her 6 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 the alcohol and other drug sector since 2016. In his current role, with an alcohol and other drug service provider, he is responsible for quality, compliance, communications, and strategic projects. He is also on the management committee for an AOD representative organisation.

Previously, Ethan delivered sector advocacy representation and support for practice expertise in policy, planning and commissioning. Previous projects have included supporting sector workforce planning and development.

Ethan has a passion for quality service delivery and 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 Mohamed is a policy professional passionate about equity, inclusion, and service accessibility. As an AODAB member, she provides strategic advice to ensure culturally responsive and inclusive policies.

In the Australian Public Service, Nafiso works in employment policy, shaping frameworks that enhance service delivery and performance outcomes. She is dedicated to ensuring policies reflect the needs of diverse communities and advocates for a person-centred approach in mental health and alcohol and other drug services. Nafiso's experience spans international policy and research, including work with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in Jordan, and social policy research at the University of Jordan. These roles have reinforced Nafiso's commitment to bridging the gap between policy development and the lived experiences of diverse communities.