Dear potential members and/or interested community stakeholders,

We would like to announce the successful incorporation of the Alcohol and Other Drug Consumer & Community Coalition (AODCCC), the first alcohol and other drug consumer body of its kind in WA. You have been sent this email because you attended or expressed interest in attending the AOD ‘Think-Tank’ forum in February this year, you are signed up to Alcohol and Other Drug and/or Mental Health service networks or are known to one of the transitional Alcohol and Other Drug Advisory Group (AODAG) members, now the AODCCC, who thought you may be interested in becoming a member or in the future workings of the association.

Membership is free and open to AOD consumers and supporting organisations. Our definition of consumer includes current, past and potential drug users and, family members, significant others and supporters of those experiencing alcohol and other drug use. To become a member, you are required to agree to the purpose of the AODCCC which is: “to promote the interests, education and welfare of those affected by alcohol and other drug use”. To ensure our association remains consumer driven, representatives from organisations may become associate members which means they are allowed to contribute their knowledge and expertise but will not be given voting rights. Anyone over 15 and under 18 can also only participate as an associate member. As with all incorporated bodies, a membership list is required which records members' names and their preferred form of contact, either a residential, postal or email address.

The formation of an incorporated AOD consumer association is a step toward stronger consumer advocacy, engagement and representation and marks the achievement of yet another recommendation coming out of the AOD forum in 2014. The association proposes that future endeavours seek to align with consumer voice already collected from a number of significant consultations including and not limited to; the 2014 Forum “[Improving Consumer Engagement in the AOD Sector](http://wanada.org.au/index.php?option=com_docman&view=download&alias=5-consumer-involvement-forum-2014-summary-report&category_slug=reports&Itemid=265)”, our “[Principles & Best Strategies for Consumer Engagement in AOD in WA](https://www.hconc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/AOD-Consumer-Engagement-Strategies-FINAL.pdf)” document and the recent “[Establishing an AOD Consumer Peak Think-Tank](https://www.hconc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/AOD-Consumer-Peak-Think-Tank-Report.pdf)”.

From here, we will undertake an initial membership drive. This will be a period of 3 months from 1st August 2018 and nominations from members to fill committee positions will also be invited during this time. The following positions; chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary, treasurer and several ordinary committee members will be voted in at our first AGM which is proposed for October 31st2018. Transition to autonomy will include detachment from Health Consumer’s Council (HCC), the purchasing of a URL to establish a Facebook page as an initial point of promotion and the establishment of an independent bank account. Interim committee positions have been filled in order to progress the association to its first AGM.

Interim Acting Chairperson: Juanita Koeijers

Interim Acting Secretary: David Shakespeare

Interim Acting Treasurer: Virginia Catterall

Applications for membership can be lodged online through our SurveyMonkey account here: [Membership Application](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DFFW28M). Those wishing to nominate themselves for a position on the association's committee are required to apply in writing and provide one referee. Further information about this process and our first AGM will be made available in the coming weeks. This association is a first in WA and there is nothing like it nationally. We have a unique opportunity to do something different and the nature of our voice will depend on the nature of our members. We, the founding and contributing members, welcome you to join and be a part of this unique endeavour. Feel free to distribute this email within your personal and professional networks to others aligned with our purpose. Questions and enquiries may be directed to us via our email [**AODCCCWA@gmail.com**](mailto:AODCCCWA@gmail.com)**.**

Founding and contributing members (in alphabetical order by first name);

Angela Corry

David Shakespeare

Jill Rundle

Juanita Koeijers

Kathryn Day

Louise Grant

Margaret Doherty

Melanie Chatfield

Paul Dessauer

Pete Hollings

Pip Brennan

Rene Dingo

Rhianwen Beresford

Ric Walne

Rochelle Brown

Sam Liebelt

Shannon Dixon

Shauna Gaebler

Tim Williams

Virginia Catterall

*The Alcohol and Other Drug Consumer & Community Coalition (AODCCC) is a not for profit association whose main object is 'promotion of the interests of a local community'. Our purpose is to 'promote the interests, education and welfare of those affected by alcohol and other drug use'. The AODCCC acknowledges the Whadjuk Noongar people, who are the Traditional Owners of the Land on which meet, and pay our respect to all Elders past, present and future. We extend our respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures. We uphold an expectation of no tolerance towards discrimination of any kind.*