



WANADA Activities: COVID Update 27 March

WANADA will provide a weekly update on our activity to support and represent the sector in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you would like to discuss any of these topics in more detail, please contact Jill Rundle or Ethan James at 6557 9400.

Advocacy – Emerging Focus Areas

WANADA's initial points of advocacy (developed through consultation with the sector) have been:

- ✓ Government communications to clarify service contract flexibility, continuity and reporting requirements
 - **Status:** Information has been circulated by Department of Health (federal), WAPHA, and State Government agencies (via FaCS and the MHC).
- Access to PPE and pre-emptive arrangements for health service in-reach.
 - **Status:** Department of Finance are coordinating an approach to PPE procurement. For full details, see Member Update dated 27 March 2020. WANADA continues to present these issues to State Government.
- Special leave provisions to be made available for community sector (as offered to public sector workers)
 - **Status:** WANADA continues to present this issue to State Government.

This week WANADA has been working with State Government agencies, peaks and services on topics including:

- Providing feedback and highlighting priority sector issues for the newly established State Government emergency governance structures – to ensure all service types and consumers are appropriately captured.
- Representing sector concerns including highlighting the need for additional support for Aboriginal workers and communities in response to COVID-19.
- Seeking clarity about the operations of opioid pharmacotherapy programs during social distancing/isolation, particularly flexibility regarding takeaways
- Supporting advocacy in justice reinvestment and prison initiatives to reduce in prison risk of COVID infection
- Consulting and providing feedback on existing tender processes
- Clarifying service continuity and social distancing in relation to diversion services

Alcohol and other Drug Sector Support

WANADA continues to undertake a range of sector support initiatives in relation to COVID-19, including:

- Consultation and information sharing with multiple service types to inform service continuity planning
- Sector engagement to determine current service availability and capacity, to support sector awareness and inform referrals
- Continuation of WANADA's SIMS replacement scoping project, in order to meet the deadline for the decommissioning of SIMS. We acknowledge the current burden on the sector as a result of the pandemic and are seeking to build flexibility into project consultation.
- Adapting WANADA's GreenBook and Mappa service directory project to ensure delivery in June 2020, to support cross-sector referrals during the pandemic.