



WANADA Submission to National Tobacco Strategy Consultation

About WANADA

WANADA is the peak body for the alcohol and other drug education, prevention, treatment and support sector in Western Australia. WANADA is an independent, membership-driven not-for-profit association.

WANADA is driven by the passion and hard work of its member agencies, which include community alcohol and other drug counselling; therapeutic communities; residential rehabilitation; intoxication management; harm reduction; peer based; prevention; and community development services.

Alcohol and other drugs, including tobacco, are a health and social issue that impacts the whole community. The alcohol and other drug sector provides specialist services to meet the diverse needs of people in Western Australia. WANADA aspires to drive across sector solutions that focus on a whole of community approach to addressing health and wellbeing issues associated with the use of alcohol and other drugs.

A Targeted, Systems Response

To address the harms associated with tobacco use it is imperative that appropriate initiatives are identified and strategically applied across the community, health and service spectrums. The continuation of a strategic, systems approach will ensure that anyone, regardless of their circumstances or needs, has access to the treatment and support required to reduce harms associated with tobacco use.

A fundamental component of this strategic approach is the identification of key population groups and settings that would benefit from targeted initiatives. Alcohol and other drug consumers and services must be considered such strategic areas of focus in the upcoming National Tobacco Strategy.

Smoking rates for people in alcohol and other drug treatment programs has been estimated to be between 74-100%¹, considerably higher than the rates of smoking amongst the general population. In addition to highlighting the potential harms experienced by this cohort due to tobacco use, this statistic underlines the significant opportunity for action tailored to this population group and setting.

Recommendation 1: Alcohol and other drug consumers are identified as a priority population group.

Recommendation 2: Alcohol and other drug services are identified as a priority setting for targeted initiatives.

¹ Baker A, Ivers R, Bowman J, Butler T, Kay-Lambkin F, Wye P. Where there's smoke, there's fire: high prevalence of smoking among some sub-populations and recommendations for intervention. *Drug Alcohol Rev.* 2006;25(1):85-96.

Settings-Based Initiatives and Support

The alcohol and other drug service sector has specialist expertise in addressing substance use issues. Further capacity building, however, would support targeted activities to address tobacco use in this specific service setting and with this specific service consumer group.

In particular, such initiatives would:

- support service staff to reduce the harms associated with their personal use of tobacco
- ensure staff are confident and best supported to assist service consumers in reducing the harms associated with their tobacco use alongside treatment and support for other substance use concerns.

Resourcing and Implementation

It is imperative that the next iteration of the National Tobacco Strategy is accompanied by sufficient resources to deliver on its commitments and initiatives.

So as to ensure the effective application of resources, the National Tobacco Strategy must include an implementation plan that outlines:

- key stakeholders
- responsibilities
- timelines for implementation
- intended outcomes.

In addition to providing strategic certainty, an implementation plan would coordinate and support the efficient application of the National Tobacco Strategy by all relevant stakeholders. It would also support stakeholder confidence in contributing to the strategic objectives of the National Tobacco Strategy.

Recommendation 3: Sufficiently resource the National Tobacco Strategy, to ensure it can deliver on its strategic objectives.

Recommendation 4: Include a comprehensive implementation plan within the National Tobacco Strategy, to provide stakeholder certainty and coordination.