wanada

Western Australian Network of Alcohol & other Drug Agencies

2025-26 ANNUAL REPORT



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Acknowledgment

WANADA acknowledge the traditional custodians of the Country on which WANADA's office is located, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation.

We acknowledge their continuing and unbroken connection to land and sea, which was never ceded. We pay our respect to their Culture and their Elders past and present and acknowledge their significant ongoing contribution to WA society and the community.

About WANADA

Established in 1984, the Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (WANADA) is an independent, membership-driven not-for-profit organisation that takes a 'whole-of-community' approach to alcohol and other drug issues.

WANADA is governed by an elected Board comprising delegates drawn from our membership. WANADA employs a small paid staff and is funded by members and both state and federal governments.

Purpose

lead a shared voice within the specialist alcohol and other drug service sector that drives and influences systemic change needed to achieve best community outcomes.

Vision

Reduced harms associated with alcohol and other drugs for all Western Australians through a sector-led approach.

Values

Engagement:
Developing quality relationships and effective, inclusive collaboration.

Respect:
Respecting diverse perspectives; and being respected as a trusted and accountable peak.

Leadership:
Influencing evidenced and sector-informed policy and decision making.

Equity:
Enabling effective needs-based responses as a priority

Board of Directors



Dr Steve Allsop
Chairperson (From August 2026



Sue Budalich
Chairperson (to August 2026)



Alex Arpino
Vice Chair



Sherri McIntosh
Interim Treasurer (From June 2026)



Andrew Amor
Treasurer (to May 2026)



Simone Clinch-Moore
Secretary

Becci Clarke



Dawn Smith



Paul Dessauer

Thomas King



Carol Daws

Chairperson **Statement**

As I reflect on my time as Chair of WANADA, I do so with a deep sense of gratitude and pride. It has been a privilege to work alongside a dedicated Board, a highly capable WANADA team, and a membership united by a shared commitment to improving the lives of people impacted by alcohol and other drug use.

Throughout the year, WANADA has continued to be a trusted voice for the sector, championing evidence-based practice, meaningful collaboration, and the importance of placing people and communities at the centre of our work. At a time when many Western Australians continue to face complex challenges, I have been continually inspired by the compassion, expertise and determination demonstrated across our sector.

While my tenure as Chair has come to an end, my confidence in WANADA's future has never been stronger. WANADA is well positioned to continue leading critical conversations, influencing policy, and supporting services to deliver lasting impact.

One of WANADA's greatest strengths has always been its ability to bring people together, nurturing strong partnerships, creating space for shared purpose, and fostering collaboration across our sector.

Through its leadership, WANADA has helped build a culture that believes positive change is possible and that lasting outcomes are achieved when we work collectively.

I am proud of all that has been achieved and look forward to seeing WANADA continue to strengthen its influence and support better outcomes for individuals, families and communities across Western Australia.

Sue Budalich
WANADA Chair
September 2026



CEO
Statement

After an outstanding 26-years as the CEO of WANADA, the 2025-26 Annual Report reflects Jill Rundle's last year leading the WANADA team in the provision of advocacy and support to the Western Australian specialist alcohol and other drug sector.

The support of the WANADA Board during a year of change, for WANADA and the sector, has been greatly appreciated. Sincere thanks to our 2025-26 Chair Sue Budalich for her significant contribution during her tenure, which finished after her resignation in August. The Board has appointed Emeritus Professor Steve Allsop as an independent Chair and we welcome him back to the role.

WANADA is also grateful for the ongoing support of members and the wider alcohol and other drug sector. A long-standing willingness to contribute to our shared goals ensures our work is informed by the sector, for the sector.

WANADA's advocacy to reduce stigma and discrimination was elevated in this period with the formation of the Alliance to End Substance Use Stigma WA, a partnership between the Alcohol and other Drug Consumer and Community Coalition (AODCCC), Peer Based Harm Reduction WA, and WANADA. The alliance produced and co-presented a paper to the WA Mental Health, Wellbeing and Alcohol and Other Drugs Ministerial Advisory Panel with an aim to raise awareness of the impact of stigma, and to support a meaningful alcohol and other drug stigma reduction strategy. This will guide our approach in the coming years.

The completion of the Kimberley Youth Alcohol and Other Drug Plan, receiving endorsement from the Kimberley Aboriginal Regional Governance Group and sign-off by the Mental Health Commission for funding and implementation is a key achievement in 2025-26.

This successful project demonstrates the strength of Aboriginal community led activity. Under the guidance of the Aboriginal Regional Governance Group, WANADA provided alcohol and other drug systems knowledge and practical support to the regional lead and alcohol and other drug specialist, Andrew Amor.

Through extensive consultation across the region and in collaboration with the Aboriginal Regional Governance Group, Andrew and the WANADA team finalised a plan that will see significant investment across the region to improve outcomes for young people, families and communities impacted by alcohol and other drug harms.

WANADA maintained its commitment to cultural security with a full-day cultural learning workshop on the beautiful grounds of the Marr Mooditj Training centre in Waterford, overlooking parkland and the Djarlgarro Beelier / Canning River this year. Uncle Ken Haward and Janelle Caddy shared insights into the impacts of trauma for Aboriginal people, guided the team through a historical journey and explored Aboriginal spirituality. The full-day experience was incredibly valuable.

CEO Statement

A visit to the Pilbara for the two-day Regional, Rural and Remote Manager's Forum is another highlight for 2025-26. Bringing together alcohol and other drug service managers from across regional Western Australia, WANADA hosted the Forum with support from local alcohol and other drug service providers, and with bursary funding from Lotterywest. The forum provided opportunities to network, visit local alcohol and other drug services across the region, workshop prioritised issues, and explore local culture. Our appreciation of members time and commitment to support and attend the forum, providing practice insights and supporting the development of solutions is deeply valued.

The sector has demonstrated its continuing commitment to quality improvement through its engagement in the review of the Scheme for the Alcohol and other Drug and Human Services Standard. The Scheme sets out how certification against the Standard should be carried out, ensuring a consistent approach. Extensive consultation and sector engagement through the establishment of a Scheme Reference Group, has led to the development of a range of improvements to strengthen the Scheme, building on government and community confidence in the quality of Western Australian alcohol and other drug services.

WANADA's advocacy continued as we welcomed opportunities in 2025-26 to regularly engage with Minister for Health; Mental Health the Hon Meredith Hammat MLA, the Mental Health Commission and Office of Alcohol and other Drugs. These engagements enabled us to provide feedback on policy and planning initiatives, as well as share updates on the challenges faced by the sector, and potential solutions. Similarly, WANADA engages in advocacy at the National level with an opportunity in 2025-26 to provide a detailed submission and present in person to the Inquiry into the Health Impacts of Alcohol and other Drugs in Australia, with the subsequent Report recommendations aligning with WANADA's key messages.

The role of peaks is recognised by the Mental Health Commission, the State Commissioning Strategy, and the national Drug and Alcohol Program. This recognition and ongoing commitment positions WANADA to continue its work to highlight the critical shortages of alcohol and other drug treatment services, the need for greater investment in prevention and harm reduction, the under-realised opportunity for cross-sector responsiveness to alcohol and other drug use, and the need to support a sustainable approach to alcohol and other drug workforce development.

Reflecting on the achievements of the WANADA team over the past year, the guidance and support from the WANADA Board over a period of significant change, and the continuing and generous support from members and from partners and funders, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation. I would also like to acknowledge the significant contribution of Jill Rundle and her tireless commitment and support of the sector, and to improving outcomes for people impacted by alcohol and other drug use.

Rochelle McIntosh, Acting CEO



Acknowledgment of Contribution
Jill Rundle-26 Years at WANADA

After more than 26 years of exceptional leadership, Jill Rundle stepped down as WANADA's CEO at the end of June 2026. Jill led WANADA with integrity and purpose, advocating with care for the people, organisations and sector she represented so passionately.

The Western Australian alcohol and other drug sector has a long-time commitment to providing quality services for communities across our state. Jill worked hard to provide the sector with the tools to meet this commitment – first by developing the Western Australian Alcohol and other Drug Sector Quality Framework in 2005 in consultation with the sector, and then by supporting the development of a recognised quality standard – the Alcohol and other Drug and Human Services Standard, again working closely with the sector to ensure it met the unique needs of alcohol and other drug services.

Originally called the Standard on Culturally Secure Practice (for its first edition), the Standard is the first to embed cultural security, making it a requirement for services to show that they respond to the needs of the communities and populations they serve.

Jill took great inspiration from WANADA's members and sector leaders, particularly in their willingness to find common ground and focus on our shared vision of improved health and wellbeing for all Western Australians.

Jill sought opportunities for the sector to make collective gains, whether through a more cost-effective Employee Assistance Program or supporting the formation of consortia that would attract more alcohol and other drug funding for Western Australia.

Jill firmly believed that access to alcohol and other drug services must be equitable, that no one who needs treatment or support should miss out because of distance, culture or language, caring responsibilities, co-occurring health or social issues, or because of stigma. She recognised that Aboriginal cultural security is necessary if Aboriginal people, families and communities are to have equitable access to services, and that Aboriginal alcohol and other drug workers and organisations are vital to an effective, sustainable alcohol and other drug service system.

Acknowledgment of Contribution
Jill Rundle-26 Years at WANADA

Jill understood that people with lived-living experience are the foundation of our sector, committing to roles on the Board of Peer Based Harm Reduction WA and supporting the establishment of the Alcohol and other Drug Consumer and Community Coalition.

Jill shared that she absolutely loved working in the alcohol and other drug sector, including her time at WANADA. Jill had worked at both Holyoake and Cyrenian House before coming to WANADA, and reflected that the sector has changed enormously over her time in the sector– in terms of its professionalism and its shared voice.

Friends and colleagues from the alcohol and other drug sector gathered at Next Gen Kings Park to celebrate and honour Jill and her contribution in late June. Board member Carol Daws led a panel discussion with Jill alongside long-time colleagues Terry Murphy and Steve Allsop. WANADA Chair Sue Budalich spoke of Jill's courage, humility and determination as a leader, presenting Jill with a memento acknowledging her exceptional contribution.

Jill brought energy and honesty to her role, generously sharing her expertise and experience to further our cause. She said she felt very privileged to have had a position that supported and contributed to the sector's collective and impactful work, and it's been a privilege for many of us to have worked with Jill.

We warmly wish her all the best as she sails away for new adventures.



Jill Rundle

Treasurer **Statement**

I am pleased to present WANADA's financial summary for the year ending 30 June 2026. The organisation continues to maintain a stable financial position, supported by sound governance, strong financial management and effective internal controls.

Total income for the year was $1,847,088, with total expenditure of $1,846,550, resulting in an operating surplus of $538.

Funding Sources:

- Core service agreement funding accounted for approximately 79% of total income.
- One-off project funding and grants contributed around 6%.
- Membership fees and member contributions for direct support services, donations, interest and other independent funding made up the remaining 15%.

I would like to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of WANADA's funding bodies in the 2025-2026 financial year, including:

- Western Australian Mental Health Commission
- Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
- Western Australian Department of Health
- Lotterywest

WANADA continued to work alongside Milliya Rumurra Aboriginal Corporation, on behalf of the Kimberley Aboriginal Regional Governance Group, in the review of the Kimberley Youth Alcohol and Other Drug Service Plan.

We value the collaborative partnership and the opportunity to contribute our expertise to strengthening alcohol and other drug service planning and responsiveness across the Kimberley region.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Andrew Amor, who served as WANADA's Treasurer until May 2026, for his commitment to WANADA and his contribution to the Board's financial oversight.

I also extend my thanks to Stefanie Palmer, Finance and Operations Manager, for her continued professionalism, diligence and clear financial reporting to the Board throughout the year.

For the 2025-2026 financial year, WANADA received an unqualified audit opinion, confirming sound financial management and compliance with regulatory requirements. This outcome reflects the organisation's commitment to accountability, transparency and effective governance. The audit was conducted by Armada Audit and Assurance Pty Ltd. On behalf of the Board, I propose a resolution at the 2026 Annual General Meeting for their reappointment as WANADA's financial auditors.

A copy of the full independent auditor's report is available upon request or can be accessed directly via the WANADA website.

As Interim Treasurer, I am confident that WANADA remains financially well-positioned to continue advancing its strategic priorities and supporting the alcohol and other drug sector across Western Australia.

Sherri McIntosh
Interim Treasurer



Key Result Area One
Advocacy and Influence

WANADA's leadership is effective, influencing policy and sector development decisions.

WANADA advocates for meaningful reforms to reduce alcohol and other drug-related harm in Western Australia that are evidence-based, aligned with sector knowledge and experience, have support from the community, and are sustainable. WANADA's advocacy relies on the expertise of member services on the sector's strengths, challenges, and perspectives.

Engagement on State and National Alcohol and Other Drug Policy, Strategy and Reform

WANADA is a trusted source of expertise and knowledge on the alcohol and other drug sector for decisionmakers, advising the WA Minister for Health and Mental Health, the Hon Meredith Hammat MLA, the Mental Health Commission (MHC) and other agencies through:

1. Our appointment to the WA Mental Health, Wellbeing and Alcohol and Other Drugs Ministerial Advisory Panel
2. Meeting directly with Minister Hammat
3. Regular meetings with the Mental Health Commissioner, Office of Alcohol and Other Drugs and other senior executives across the WA Government

WANADA has also provided expert knowledge and advice through formal consultation with the WA Government. Most notably, WANADA provided key feedback on the Mental Health Commission's strategic direction, policy priorities, commissioning and ways of working in the Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Strategy 2026-2031.

Prevention of alcohol and other drug-related harm has a significant role in improving the health and wellbeing of Western Australians. WANADA provided feedback on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and other priorities to support the development of WA's first Preventative Health Strategy in 2025-26 and later met with then Preventative Health Minister the Hon Sabine Winton MLA to brief her separately on school-based alcohol and other drug programs.

Engagement on State and National **Alcohol and Other Drug Policy, Strategy and Reform**

WANADA has advocated for evidence-based measures to reduce harm from alcohol in the community with the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety in 2025-26. In response to consultation on Liquor Control Act Reforms, WANADA advocated in favour of harm minimisation measures alongside any further liquor deregulation and has continued to meet with decision makers to advocate for population-based measures to reduce harms from online sale and delivery of alcohol.

In our response to the Ombudsman's review of the Protected Entertainment Precinct Scheme (the PEP Scheme), WANADA raised justice and fairness concerns and promoted a broader approach to harm minimisation, and these concerns were reflected in the now-published Ombudsman's Report.

At the national level, the Australian Government Drug and Alcohol Program (DAP) directs significant funding to alcohol and other drug services in Western Australia, both directly and through the WA Primary Health Alliance. The Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing conducted regular consultation with alcohol and other drug peak bodies including WANADA, on the Drug and Alcohol Program over 2025-26 and WANADA has given feedback throughout this process on the program logic and reforms to key performance indicators. Later in 2025-26 WANADA has communicated with the sector to support them in upcoming grant opportunities.

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Disability resumed the Inquiry into the Health Impacts of Alcohol and other Drugs in 2025. WANADA prepared a detailed submission and provided further evidence to the Committee at a public hearing in Perth in April 2026.

The Committee has since released its Report, including recommendations that align with WANADA's advocacy such as stronger, better-targeted services, a more sustainable workforce, tighter alcohol advertising and online sales regulation, and longer-term funding arrangements for alcohol and other drug services.

WANADA's Rochelle McIntosh and Jill Rundle at the Public Hearing on the Inquiry into the health impacts of alcohol and other drugs in Australia



Engagement on State and National **Alcohol and Other Drug Policy, Strategy and Reform**

The alcohol and other drug sector relies on a skilled and professional workforce. WANADA has promoted the need for workforce monitoring to provide evidence-based insights into the planning and development of the alcohol and other drug workforce over many years. The Mental Health Commission is now developing a workforce data research project of the alcohol and other drug and mental health sectors, and WANADA has provided substantial feedback to ensure the surveys meet the alcohol and other drug sector needs.

WANADA has also provided evidence-based feedback on the recently released 'A Trauma-Informed Approach: Guidance for WA State Government', developed by the Mental Health Commission. The guidance promotes a shared, whole-of-government understanding of a trauma-informed approach to fostering resilient, inclusive and connected environments for staff and the people they serve.

Partnerships that Strengthen the **WA Alcohol and Other Drug Sector**



WANADA entered two new partnerships in 2025-26 that will support more effective advocacy on specific alcohol and other drug-related issues.

WANADA joined with the Alcohol and other Drug Consumer and Community Coalition (AODCCC) and Peer Based Harm Reduction WA to form the Alliance to End Substance Use Stigma WA and progress work to reduce alcohol and other drug-related stigma and discrimination.

WANADA has joined Cancer Council WA and the Alcohol and Drug Foundation in creating a coalition of organisations working to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harms in Western Australia, building on our separate but aligned previous advocacy.

WANADA continues to work with our national peak, the Australian Alcohol and other Drugs Council and our state and territory counterparts to coordinate advocacy on national policy and planning, including Drug and Alcohol Program funding and the review of the National Drug Strategy.

WANADA maintains links with health and community service peaks through regular meetings and through the Western Australian Council of Social Service.

In 2025-26, advocacy has focused on sustainable funding as the community services prepare for changes to the Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Award and continuing workforce pressures.

Research to inform
WANADA's Environmental Analysis

The demand for alcohol and other drug treatment and support in Western Australia is greater than services can provide, according to WANADA's 2026-27 Alcohol and other Drug Sector Analysis. Services are concerned about the increasing numbers of service users who have more complex needs and the challenge of recruiting and retaining staff, particularly in regional, rural and remote locations.

WANADA completed the environmental analysis in May 2026 to provide an overview of influencing factors for the alcohol and other drug sector. These include the 2026-2027 State and Federal budgets, the WA Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Strategy 2026-2031, and plans in development or yet to be endorsed. A future review of the WA Alcohol and other Drugs Act 1974 is also expected.

A future National Drug Strategy (once the current Strategy expires at the end of 2026) will also require sector input in 2026-27.

The WA Parliamentary Education and Health Standing Committee's 2022 Report of the Inquiry into the Esther Foundation and unregulated private health facilities remains relevant. Regulation remains a priority and WANADA is tracking the recommended legislative reforms. WANADA believes that the human rights of people seeking alcohol and other drug treatment and support must be protected and all services have an obligation towards quality and evidence-informed care.

Throughout 2025-26, WANADA monitored relevant sources including State and Federal Government communications, alcohol and other drug-related research and reports, and traditional and social media to support our advocacy and provide timely updates to members and the sector.

Key Result Area Two
Sector Developments

WANADA leads quality and evidence-informed sector-wide development.

WANADA's sector development ranges from small, targeted projects that respond to a key or emerging issue through to sector wide system development that requires effective change management and a commitment to sustainability. Sector development is achieved in consultation and collaboration with the Western Australian alcohol and other drug sector.

Alcohol and other Drug Human Services Standard and the Scheme

WANADA is the owner of the only alcohol and other drug industry standard in Australia, the Alcohol and other Drug and Human Services Standard. The Standard is recognised in the National Quality Framework for Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services.

Alcohol and other Drug and Human Services Standard
Evidence Informed | Culturally Responsive

In Western Australia, all government funded alcohol and other drug treatment services must meet a standard recognised under the National Quality Framework, and many are certified against WANADA's Alcohol and other Drug and Human Services Standard. There are prevention, harm reduction, sobering up and healing services that have also chosen to become certified against the Alcohol and other Drug and Human Services Standard, showing a commitment to providing quality, evidence-based, culturally secure services.

In addition to the standard, WANADA owns supporting resources including the Scheme and an interpretive guide, maintaining an improvement register for all three resources. Improvements are made in line with quality and review processes determined by the Joint Accreditation body for Australia and New Zealand (JASANZ).

WANADA began a review of the Scheme in 2025-26, outside of the typical cycle of Standard and Scheme reviews, to strengthen existing quality systems in conjunction with government's implementation of recommendations from the Government's Response to the Inquiry into the Esther Foundation and unregulated private health facilities. In particular, the introduction of regulation of private health facilities including alcohol and other drug services.

The review comes as the result of extensive consultation identifying opportunities to strengthen the Scheme and has been undertaken in partnership with the WA alcohol and other drug sector, and key stakeholders including the Institute for Healthy Communities Australia (IHCA), JASANZ and the Australian Therapeutic Communities Association (ATCA). Key stakeholders and sector representatives have agreed on a range of improvements and are working to finalise changes for implementation in 2026-27.

Capability **Building**



Individuals, families and communities affected by alcohol and other drug use may also experience other health and social challenges. Building the capability of services to respond to these challenges can lead to more positive and sustainable outcomes.

WANADA has supported capability building through collaboration and partnerships, providing tools that support continuous quality improvement.

Hepatitis C Care ***Capability***

Since 2019, Western Australian alcohol and other drug services have joined the global effort to eliminate hepatitis C, a now curable liver condition, by 2030.

This collective action included development of the Hepatitis C Virus Care Capability in AOD Treatment Tool (HCVCAT), a practical tool that supports organisations to strengthen responses to hepatitis C.

Alcohol and other drug services that apply the HCVCAT remain engaged with WANADA directly and through an independent consultant, contributing to evaluation and review of the tool and providing annual reporting of opportunities for improvement that lead to system improvements. The tool is available on the WANADA website along with supporting resources.

WANADA continued this work in 2025-26 with renewed funding from the WA Department of Health and in collaboration with Peer Based Harm Reduction WA.

WANADA and Peer Based Harm Reduction WA jointly released two hepatitis C screening resources in May. Developed to strengthen routine, stigma-free screening, and enhance self-determination for people who may be at risk or impacted by hepatitis C, the resources aim to make conversations about hepatitis C easier for both workers and community members, supporting earlier identification of risk and enhancing responsiveness. Project partners Peer Based Harm Reduction WA also provided free, peer-led and tailored hepatitis C training, with participants responding that the training was highly relevant, effective and of good quality.

In June, WANADA presented an update to the Burnet Institute, the initial funding providers for this project in 2019-20. The Burnet Institute team thanked WANADA and the WA alcohol and other drug sector for carrying forward the work initiated through its original funding and for evolving and expanding it, acknowledging WANADA's leadership and commitment to ensuring comprehensive and sustainable improvements in responding to hepatitis C.

Hepatitis C Care
Capability

WANADA's current focus is on exploring opportunities to prevent and reduce hepatitis C among priority populations, such as people leaving prison or detention and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. WANADA is reviewing relevant data and research and will continue to engage with stakeholders and potential partners to improve access to hepatitis C screening, testing and treatment.



Consultant Tabetha McCallum, WANADA's Rochelle McIntosh and Peer Based Harm Reduction WA's Peta Gava

Co-ocurring Mental Health And
Alcohol and Other Drug Use

Several alcohol and other drug services continued to apply the Co-occurring Mental Health and Alcohol and other Drug Use (CCRT) in 2025-26, with interstate organisations and researchers requesting access.

The tool is the result of a 2020 partnership with the WA Association for Mental Health, funded by the WA Primary Health Alliance.

Dedicated funding could ensure this opportunity to improve responses to co-occurring alcohol and other drug and mental health issues is realized. WANADA continues to advocate for its wider support.

Intersecting Alcohol and other
Drug and Family Domestic Violence

WANADA provides access to the Intersecting Alcohol and other Drugs and Family and Domestic Violence Capability Review Tool (ICRT) on request.

WANADA worked with the Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing and Stopping Family Violence to develop the tool in 2022, with support from the Department of Communities.

The launch of the WA Family and Domestic Violence Workforce Entity known as Workforce FDV, in August 2026 may provide potential for further capability building across the two sectors.

Regional, Rural and Remote
Managers Forums

Regional alcohol and other drug service managers shared valuable insight into the specialist alcohol and other drug workforce during a two-day Regional, Rural and Remote Managers' Forum held in the Pilbara in May.

WANADA hosted two online forums and a face-to-face forum in Perth in 2025-26 along with the Pilbara event. The forums have enabled ongoing connection, collaboration and knowledge sharing among regional services. The forums have also supported WANADA's advocacy on behalf of our regional members.





Highlights from WANADA's visit to the Pilbara

"... thank you for the efforts you made in organising everything. You have definitely set a very high standard for yourself"

RRR Forum Participant

The Pilbara forum included visits to Hope Community Services – Pilbara Community Alcohol and Drug Service in Karratha, and Yaandina Community Services' Turner River Rehabilitation Centre. The Yaandina team also hosted visits to the Low Medical Withdrawal Service and the Sobering Up Centre in Roebourne.

Participants attended a cultural tour of ancient rock art on Ngarda-Ngarli Country at Murujuga National Park, a privilege that offered a deeper understanding of local history and context.
Visiting the Pilbara provided an invaluable opportunity for WANADA and regional alcohol and other drug service managers to meet in person, workshop shared challenges and identify viable solutions.

Outcomes from the workshops include design of alcohol and other drug related regional profiles, as well as the identification of systems solutions to shared workforce challenges. Workshop outcomes informed WANADA's 2026-27 activity plans.

The regional forum also enabled alcohol and other drug service managers and the WANADA team to learn firsthand about local services and the context in which they work. WANADA will continue to collaborate with regional services and explore other opportunities to meet face-to-face in the regions.

Collective **Benefits**

WANADA supports collective efforts to share information and support, and to reduce costs and administration for our members.

Interpreter ***Access Program***



People from all backgrounds can experience alcohol and other drug-related harm, whether their own or that of a friend or family member.

WANADA's Interpreter Access Program (IAP) supports people whose main language is not English, including people who are Deaf or hard of hearing, to access confidential and culturally safe support at WANADA's member services.

WANADA continues to evaluate this long-standing program to ensure it meets members' needs and contract requirements, and that it accommodates changes within the interpreting and translation sector.

In 2025-26, the program supported alcohol and other drug workers to arrange for counselling sessions in over 15 languages. A total of 67 sessions took place with assistance from accredited translation and interpreter services.

Umbrella Employee Assistance ***Program***



2025-26

15 Languages

67 Counselling Sessions

WANADA is proud to offer member services the opportunity to participate in the umbrella Employee Assistance Program. By participating in an umbrella program, member services can together benefit from cost-efficiencies when offering employees, volunteers and their family members access to an Employee Assistance Program.

WANADA's Umbrella Employee Assistance Program offers free counselling for up to six sessions per year, and is provided by Relationships Australia WA face-to-face, by telephone or online.

Relationships Australia WA's usage breakdown shows that staff in 22 of the 30 participating organisations have used the Employee Assistance Program services in 2025-26. The program supported a total of 353 employees and volunteers to access the service over the same year, of which 293 were new clients to the service and 60 were continuing clients from the previous year. Family members initiated 20 cases.

Reports from Relationships Australia WA, which do not include any identifying information, provide WANADA and the sector with valuable insight into the issues most affecting workers, informing service and system efforts to improve worker wellbeing.

Pharos Data System
Support

Data and information management systems can support alcohol and other drug services to keep secure records, meet funding requirements, improve services, respond to trends, and contribute to wider sector knowledge and planning.

Many WA alcohol and other drug treatment services use the Pharos data management system to do this. The Pharos Data System is independent of government and WANADA, with each participating alcohol and other drug sector organisation taking ownership and control of its own data system.

WANADA facilitated its development in partnership with the Western Australian alcohol and other drug sector and a data systems developer in 2021, with funding from the WA Mental Health Commission and Lotterywest.

WANADA continues to support services in their use of the Pharos data system and has facilitated two online forums in 2025-26, each attended by representatives from 10 of the 11 organisations that use Pharos.

All organisations participated in at least one forum. Through these forums and direct assistance, WANADA supports services to collaborate, share insights, and strengthen their capacity to collect and use data in ways that meet their needs.

WANADA continues to take feedback from service and Pharos users, feeding into broader conversations about more efficient data collection and reporting.

"…Thank you so much for all your work, to bring us together for our meeting and providing a forum to workshop common challenges and share great ideas too." Pharos forum participant via email

RRR Forum Participant



Recognising the ***Childcare Access Program***

Childcare remains a key factor in helping parents, particularly women and single parents, engage with alcohol and other drug services, according to the 2025-26 independent review of WANADA's Childcare Access Program.

While the findings highlighted the importance of supported access, they also identified that the recent 2026 changes to the Australian Government's Child Care Subsidy offer broader access, reducing historical barriers.

The review found that supporting parents and caregivers to access the CCS provides greater benefit to families and is more sustainable than maintaining WANADA's Childcare Access Program.

As a result, WANADA retired the Childcare Access Program in March 2026 after more than 25 years. WANADA offered transition support for participating clients through to June 2026.

The Childcare Access program evolved from a similar program developed by Holyoake in the late 1990s, transferring to WANADA in 2000 to expand the sector's capacity to support families facing access and engagement barriers.

The Childcare Access Program's long operation reflects the sector's collective commitment to improving equitable access to services.



Workforce ***Development***

WANADA began exploring the development of a regional workforce planning model following discussions at the May Regional, Rural and Remote Managers Forum.

The development of the model is collaborative and aims to meet critical skilled workforce needs. Priority population groups, including Aboriginal people, will be key to local workforce inclusion and development solutions.

WANADA promotes workforce development opportunities, including training and conferences, access to new resources, research and reports, and career opportunities through our website and our monthly e-newsletter FYI.

WANADA has provided input into the development of the Mental Health Commission's eLearning Program – AOD Core Principles for Human Services in 2025-26.

WANADA's advocacy has resulted in the inclusion of relevant topics, such as stigma and the role of people who have lived-living experience, in the appropriate e-learning modules.



Key Result Area Three
Aboriginal Self Determination

WANADA advocates for and enables the implementation of Aboriginal self-determination within the alcohol and other drug sector.

Acknowledging Aunty Oriel Green OAM, Aunty Moya Newman and Professor Stanley Nangala

After eight years as WANADA's cultural advisors, Aboriginal Elders Aunty Oriel Green OAM and Aunty Moya Newman took a step back from their roles in 2025-26. WANADA gratefully acknowledges their cultural guidance, alongside the ongoing support of Professor Stanley Nangala.

Aunty Oriel and Aunty Moya began their association with WANADA through Looking Forward, Moving Forward, a research project of the Kids Institute, in 2017-18. The project aimed to support alcohol and other drug and mental health services to become more culturally secure for Aboriginal people. WANADA continued its engagement with Aunty Oriel and Aunty Moya after the project's conclusion in 2019.

Stanley's engagement with WANADA started while he worked as CEO of Ngnowar Aerwah Aboriginal Corporation in Wyndham, and WANADA is fortunate that his involvement and cultural guidance continues.

Passionate about reducing alcohol and other drug-related harm in the community, together they have become a consistent source of knowledge and inspiration for the team, supporting WANADA to be a more culturally secure organisation. They have effectively advocated for Aboriginal ways of working to reduce harm, strengthening WANADA's commitment to Aboriginal self-determination.

With appreciation, WANADA acknowledges Aunty Oriel, Aunty Moya and Stanley Nangala's contributions.



Professor Stanley Nangala

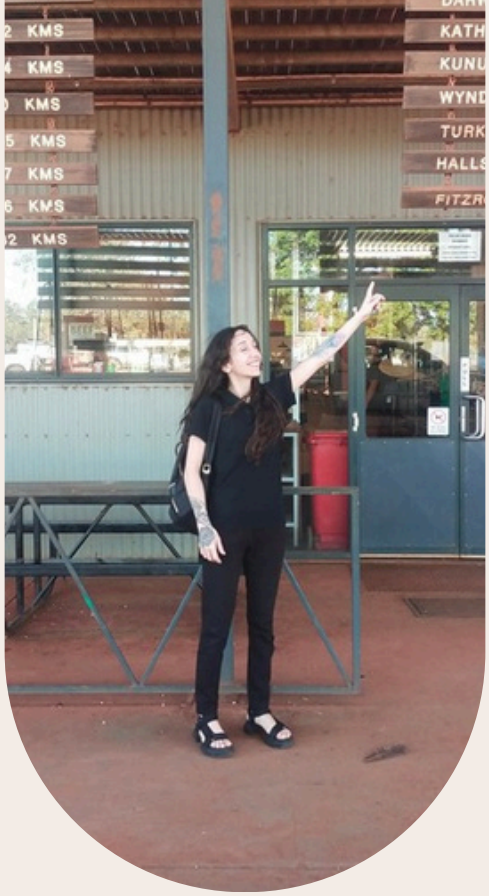


Aunty Moya and Aunty Oriel Green OAM

Supporting the Development of the **Kimberley Youth Alcohol and Other Drug Plan**

WANADA brought its knowledge of the alcohol and other drug service system and practical support to a review of the Kimberley Youth Alcohol and other Drug Plan in 2025. Supported by grant funding from the WA Mental Health Commission, and under the guidance of the Kimberley Aboriginal Regional Governance Group, Andrew Amor worked with support from WANADA to lead a Kimberley-wide consultation as part of the review.

The review team set out to understand how the Kimberley Youth Alcohol and other Drug service could realistically be implemented given the region's unique conditions, and how the investment could best benefit young people and their families into the future.



WANADA's Helin Cimen

The final report, published with endorsement from the Kimberley Aboriginal Regional Governance Group in March 2026, proposed a sustainable service model that centres principles of self-determination and workforce development, has a focus on preventing uptake and reducing harms, and which is informed by evidence and input from stakeholders across the Kimberley. Families and community were considered integral to improved outcomes for young people, and as such were reflected in the Service Model and associated activities.

The project has strengthened WANADA's connections in the Kimberley, and the team gained valuable insight into working with Aboriginal people and communities. WANADA hopes to apply the significant learning that came from the consultation in other settings.



WANADA staff with some attendees at the Kimberley Project Empowered Young Leaders Workshop

Supporting Community-led Alcohol **and Other Drug Responsiveness**

WANADA maintains engagement with services who participated in a WANADA/Aboriginal Health Council of WA partnership project that supported Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to build their capacity to respond to alcohol and other drugs.

WANADA's engagement supports the services' ongoing commitment to quality improvement and evidence informed alcohol and other drug responsiveness.

Following the completion of this project, Ngangganawili Aboriginal Health Service (NAHS) approached WANADA in 2025-26 to support their efforts to enhance responses for individuals, families and the community who use alcohol and other drugs.

NAHS is based in Wiluna and surrounding communities, and is a primary health care service operated by the local community to deliver holistic, comprehensive, and culturally safe health care.

WANADA, in consultation with all NAHS services and in line with 2025-26 planning, will map current alcohol and other drug activity, suggest systems and workforce enhancement opportunities, and develop an alcohol and other drug readiness plan over the coming year.

WANADA's **Cultural Learning**

The WANADA team took part in a Cultural Awareness and Cultural Competency Learning Session at Marr Mooditj Training Centre in Waterford in September 2025.

The session was facilitated by Edith Cowan University lecturers Ken Hayward and Janelle Caddy, who guided staff through a range of topics, including trauma-informed practice in an Aboriginal context, history and connecting the past to the present, and ways of working with respect to culture and spirituality.

The session offered important insights into Aboriginal perspectives, enhancing cultural understanding and supporting more culturally responsive practice by the WANADA team.



WANADA staff gather after the cultural learning session

Aboriginal Alcohol and other Drug Workers **Forum 2026: Community First**

For nearly two decades, WANADA has supported Aboriginal Alcohol and other Drug Workers Forum. Aboriginal Reference Groups have guided the themes and cultural security for each event.

The Aboriginal Reference Group for the 2026 forum was established in August 2025 with membership from across the alcohol and other drug sector, as well as representatives from the Strong Spirit Strong Mind program and supported by WANADA.

The reference group developed the themes Listening, Yarning, and Working our Ways for the upcoming forum, which will provide a culturally safe space for workers and community members to connect, share knowledge, and strengthen culturally responsive approaches to reducing alcohol and other drug–related harms.

The forum will be held in October 2026 and will highlight and support a strong, skilled Aboriginal workforce that continues to drive positive change across communities and regions.



WANADA staff pictured with the Aboriginal Alcohol and Other Drug Workers Forum Reference Group

Key Result Area Four
Alcohol and Other Drug Stigma and Discrimination

WANADA leads a values-based systemic approach to reducing stigma and discrimination and enhancing empowerment.

Reducing stigma and discrimination, and promoting social inclusion, supports improved access to services and the community for people affected by alcohol and other drug use, resulting in improved health, wellbeing, and quality of life.

WANADA's commitment to reducing alcohol and other drug related stigma is evident in our advocacy and representation, our sector development, in our work to support Aboriginal self-determination and in our communications.

Shedding Light on Stigma and Discrimination

WANADA supports a values-based approach to reducing alcohol and other drug related stigma and discrimination, promoting universal human rights and open, informed conversations about alcohol and other drug use.

New staff members participate in Common Cause Australia training in Values-Based Messaging and stay engaged with Common Cause events and advice. Staff members also have access to in-house and sector guidance on non-stigmatising language, policy and practice that promotes the inclusion and empowerment of people who use alcohol and other drugs.

In May 2026, WANADA participated in UNSW Sydney's Combating Stigma: Strategies for Inclusive Healthcare. This short course provided an opportunity to connect with researchers, organisations and workers with a shared commitment to reducing stigma over six weeks.

Current research, lived-living experience and practical examples combined to support a greater understanding of the process of stigma, and what actions to reduce stigma are creating the best outcomes for services and the community.

The Alliance to End Substance Use Stigma

The Alliance to End Substance Use Stigma WA was founded in 2025-26 by the Alcohol and Other Drug Consumer and Community Coalition (AODCCC), Peer Based Harm Reduction WA (PBHR WA) and WANADA to facilitate strategic discussions and coordinated action to improve outcomes for the Western Australian community, by working to reduce the impact of alcohol and other drug related stigma and discrimination.

The Alliance to End
Substance Use Stigma

The Alliance has presented to the WA Mental Health, Wellbeing and Alcohol and Other Drugs Ministerial Advisory Panel, outlining the evidence base on the impact of stigma and discrimination for people who use alcohol and other drugs, their families, friends and the community, and proposing opportunities for positive change.

Together, the Alliance is well placed to use our collective expertise and connection to people with lived-living experience, alcohol and other drug sector workers, and sector organisations to improvehealth equity.

The Alliance has identified three opportunities for positive change:

- Community development that proactively frames alcohol and other drug use and talks about people who use substances in a way that engenders humanity, dignity, compassion, and a focus on health equity;

- Whole-of government commitment and accountability to enable improved cross-sector responsiveness to alcohol and other drug use in a way that is conscious of stigma and discrimination risks and impacts, and;

- Meaningful and purposeful inclusion of people with relevant and contemporary lived-living experience of alcohol and other drug use in a coordinated process of reviewing and reforming systems culture, legislation, regulation, policies, and practices.

ALLIANCE TO END SUBSTANCE USE STIGMA WA

Key Result Area Five
Strong Peak

WANADA is a sustainable peak body, both leading and responding to its members.

Commitment to
Quality

WANADA continues to maintain its certification against the ISO 9001:2015 Quality management Systems Standard.

As an industry specific Standard owner, and as the peak body for a sector that continues to lead in its commitment to continuous quality improvement, WANADA is steadfast in the rigorous application of continuous quality improvement.

The recent recertification audit has confirmed that WANADA's Quality Management Systems are effective in meeting the requirements of the ISO 9001:2015 Standard.

IHCA CERTIFIED ISO 9001:2015 Quality Certified Organisation

Welcoming Office In
West Perth

WANADA moved to a new location in West Perth after more than seven years as co-tenants of the Mental Health Commission and related organisations in November 2025.

WANADA appreciated the benefits of its previous location but needed more flexible space.

The team is now able to welcome members and other visitors to dedicated meeting rooms in a newly refurbished space.

The location is central, close to decision makers and is a physical reminder that WANADA is an independent voice.



WANADA's Office in West Perth

Consultation, Connection and **Communication**

WANADA fosters long-term relationships with our members to ensure accurate and equitable representation.

We ensure members are informed about opportunities to contribute to relevant submissions and projects, and that our consultation is intentional and considerate of member and other stakeholders' time and resources.

Engagement is through site visits, events, planned discussions, informal conversations when the opportunity arises, and requests for information.

Members are encouraged to contact the WANADA team when they have questions, feedback or updates to share.



Stanley Nangala and Andrew Amor

The genuine commitment and invaluable contribution of our members strengthens WANADA as a peak body and is greatly appreciated.



Rev. George Davies and Jill Rundle

The WANADA team maintains up-to-date contact details for member services and has reached out to new service representatives throughout the year to provide information about member benefts and to support a connection with the broader network of alcohol and other drug services in WA.

WANADA has created opportunities for members and other stakeholders to network and to contribute to sector planning through events.

WANADA hosted the 2025 Alcohol and other Drug Sector Forum in October with guests from the Mental Health Commission and the Office of Alcohol and other Drugs, who spoke on the Mental Health and Alcohol and other Drug Strategy.

WANADA supports quarterly online events for regional, rural and remote managers, and in May 2026 supported a two-day forum in the Pilbara. In June, the team hosted a special panel discussion on the strengths of the sector as part of CEO Jill Rundle's farewell. These events took place in-person and online to support regional access.

Consultation, Connection and **Communication**

Effective communication is essential to achieving WANADA's vision and purpose. The Member Update e-bulletin ensures senior and executive staff at our member services are informed of relevant changes that will impact the alcohol and other drug sector, their work and WANADA. WANADA shared 60 issues in 2025-26.

WANADA's monthly e-newsletter FYI and our website provide news for the wider alcohol and other drug sector including current research and reports, workforce development opportunities such as training and conferences, career opportunities, and resources that support alcohol and other drug work.

Our social media activity is focussed on LinkedIn to engage with current and future alcohol and other drug professionals, researchers, and other stakeholders including government. WANADA also maintains a presence on Facebook and Bluesky.

WANADA promotes and maintains the GreenBook Directory of Alcohol and other Drug Services in Western Australia to make it easier for people to find and access quality, specialist alcohol and other drug treatment and support in the community.

60

Member Update E- bulletins sent

10

Issues of FYI E- Newsletter sent

Membership List

full members

- 55 Central
- Adult & Teen Challenge WA
- Alcohol and Other Drug Consumer and Community Coalition
- Bega Garnbirringu Health Services
- Bloodwood Tree Association Inc.
- Breakaway Aboriginal Corporation
- Cyrenian House
- Doors Wide Open
- Fresh Start Recovery Programme
- Garl Garl Walbu Alcohol Association Aboriginal Corporation
- Goldfields Rehabilitation Services Inc
- HepatitisWA Inc
- Holyoake
- Hope Community Services
- Kimberley Community Alcohol and Drug Service (WA Country Health Service)
- Luma: For her health and wellbeing
- Midwest Community Alcohol and Drug Service (WA Country Health Service)
- Milliya Rumurra Aboriginal Corporation
- Mission Australia WA
- National Drug Research Institute (NDRI)
- Next Step Drug and Alcohol Services
- Ngnowar Aerwah Aboriginal Corporation
- Outcare (under the parent company PeopleKind Group)
- Palmerston Association Inc
- PED Test Australia
- Peer Based Harm Reduction WA
- Pindari House
- Salvation Army WA
- Smart Recovery Australia
- St John of God Social Outreach (Drug and Alcohol Withdrawal Network and South West CADS)
- St. Patrick's Community Support Centre
- Swan City Youth Service Inc.
- Tenacious House
- Uniting WA Attach
- Wunan Health
- Wungening Aboriginal Corporation
- Yaandina Community Services

associate members

- Armadale Youth Accommodation Service (AYAS)
- Cancer Council WA
- Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing Inc
- Consumers of Mental Health WA (CoMHWA)
- Esperance Crisis Accommodation Service Inc.
- Fremantle Women's Health Centre
- Health Consumers' Council (WA) Inc.
- HelpingMinds Limited
- Indigo Junction
- Jungarni-Jutiya Indigenous Corporation
- Langford Aboriginal Association Inc.
- LUMERA Recovery Pathways
- Mental Illness Fellowship of WA (MIFWA)
- MercyCare
- Multicultural Futures
- Nindilingarri Cultural Health Services
- North Metropolitan TAFE
- Nyoongar Outreach Services Inc
- Orana House
- OVIS Community Services
- Palmerston Legal (trading as Sussex Street)
- Perth Inner City Youth Service (PICYS)
- Ruah Community Services
- St Bartholomew's House
- WAAC
- Yorgum Healing Services
- Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia (YACWA)
- Youth Futures Ltd
- Zonta House Refuge Association Inc

individual members

- David Ian Tucker
- Paula Whyatt
- Susanne Pestana-Lewis
- Nethmini Tharushika Ranasinghe Gamaralalge
- Cliaan Coenraad
- Rebekah Ervin
- Jason Thomas
- Rev George Davies
- Sheila McHale
- Brent Dalgleish
- James Paxman
- Steve McKinney
- Maxine Kent
- Amanda Kendal
- Luke O'Malley
- Priscilla Daniels
- Lisa Norrie
- Lyddia Van Eyk
- Angela Seymour-Boss
- Logon Rhem Smith
- Alison Jane Moore
- Michelle Downie
- June McNamara
- Troy Edwards
- Sehliselo Priscilla Ndhlovu
- Shannon Old
- Glendan Hoei

WANADA Staff



Rochelle McIntosh
Acting CEO



Stefanie Palmer
Finance and Operations Manager



Fleur Ellis
Coordinator, Research and Advocacy



Roxanne Gervais
Information Management Officer



Naomi Carter
Coordinator, Sector Development



Deanne Ferris
Strategic Commiunications Coordinator



Helin Cimen
Project Officer



Calvin Sims
Communications Officer



Paola Bohorquez
Quality and Operations Support Officer



Sheridan Robbins
Research and Advocacy Officer
(From September 2026)

We wish to acknowlege and extend our gratitude to valued staff members leaving in this report period: **Ganit Poleg-Spark, Amie Furlong** and **Kathleen Blackburn** for their contribution to the sector.

Appreciation & acknowledgement of **Funders and Supporters**

WANADA extends our gratitude to our 2025-2026 funders for their valuable support: The Western Australian Mental Health Commission, Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, Western Australian Department of Health, and Lotterywest

We also thank our members for their active engagement and contributions, which empower us to represent and support the sector and community.

Lastly, we are grateful to our partners and collaborators for generously sharing their expertise in advancing the alcohol and other drug sector.

Extract of
WANADA Annual Financial Report

	2026	2025
Revenue	$	$
Grant revenue		
Unearned revenue carried forward	7,201	265,199
Grant funding - current year	1,606,278	1,701,764
Conference fees	35,795	213,601
	1,649,274	2,180,564
Transfer to unearned revenue	(1,569)	(54,693)
Grant balance transferred to unearned grant revenue	(82,953)	(22,081)
Repayment of Grant Funds	-	(50,939)
Total grant revenue	**1,564,752**	**2,052,851**
Other income	**282,336**	**229,029**
Total revenue and other income	**1,847,088**	**2,278,880**
Expenditure		
Salaries, benefits and associated expenses	(1,103,072)	(1,253,054)
Amortisation of right-of-use assets	(66,431)	(68,612)
Depreciation	(10,217)	(4,213)
Computer	(40,874)	(34,731)
Consultancy	(59,376)	(253,332)
Employee assistance program	(152,470)	(111,050)
Interest expense	(11,712)	(4,426)
Other expenses	(202,398)	(354,595)
Total expenditure	**(1,846,550)**	**(2,084,013)**
Net Surplus for the year	**538**	**194,867**
Other Comprehensive Income		
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
Total comprehensive income/ (loss) for the year	**538**	**194,867**

Extract of
WANADA Annual Financial Report

	2026 $	2025 $
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,184,724	2,323,390
Trade and other receivables	99,638	48,619
Other current assets	21,049	23,389
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	**2,305,411**	**2,395,398**
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant & equipment	44,058	10,777
Right-of-use asset	359,811	68,612
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	403,869	79,389
TOTAL ASSETS	2,709,280	2,474,787
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	91,093	116,185
Amounts due to ATO	55,046	69,872
Provisions	176,516	155,155
Contract liabilities	248,950	226,871
Lease liabilities	44,872	141,650
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	616,477	709,733
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Provisions	5,783	-
Lease liabilities	321,428	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	**327,211**	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**943,688**	**709,733**
NET ASSETS	**1,765,592**	**1,765,054**
EQUITY		
Reserves	-	221,418
Retained earnings	1,765,292	1,543,636
TOTAL EQUITY	**1,765,592**	**1,765,054**

wanada
Western Australian Network of Alcohol & other Drug Agencies

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WANADA is a not-for-profit organisation incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015* (WA).
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Thank you from the team at WANADA