

WANADA: 40 Years Of Driving Positive Change

1988

"Psychiatric Issues, or Dual Diagnosis" became an issue for WANADA. A number of member agencies during this time recognised a need for services to address both psychiatric and alcohol and other drug problems.

1989

"Diversity within the non-government sector has often been heralded as both (the sectors) major strength and major source of vulnerability". (Greg Dear, Executive Member, 1989)

1995-96

"A mature attitude of commitment to the very real need of the community for effective treatment services, useful education and helpful research which transcends personal or organisational boundaries, has been more evident in the field in recent years". As the years went on, WANADA gradually got its finger on the pulse at National level. In 1995/96 there was a significant increase in the level of awareness about what was happening in the AOD sector nationally.

2003

WANADA consulted in WA and NT to contribute to a national project on Workforce Development with funding from Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation.

"As we work with increased demand and more complex situations, the skills, experience and wellbeing of front line workers is paramount". (Lorraine Smith, President 2003).

2008

WANADA supported the COAG Comorbidity Improved Services Initiative Tendering process - a capacity building initiative to improve responses for people with problems related to their AOD and mental health. "Initially 11 submissions across WA, many consortia involving several AOD services, were successful, attracting significant funding to the sector but also in opening up opportunities for future collaboration and partnerships" (Ann Deanus, President 2008)

2011

WANADA and the AOD sector in Western Australia has long recognised that culturally secure services are essential to ensuring that Aboriginal people and communities have access to prevention, treatment and rehabilitation". (Sheila McHale, Board Member 2011) WANADA developed its Reconciliation Action Plan and published the Culturally Secure Recruitment and Retention Guide.

2014

Green Book Launch

Launch of the Green Book as a website, mobile app and booklets now including mental health services as well as alcohol and other drug services.

2018

While progress in funding and activity has been encouraging, there is still a significant gap in service provision against need.

2021

The increased recognition of alcohol and other drug harms across multiple sectors has been a positive development. These initiatives do, however, highlight the importance of systems reform to support specialist service pathways and cross-sector co-occurring capability building.

2024

Office of Alcohol and other Drugs

The sector called for an "independent domain for the alcohol and other drug system with accountable and transparent leadership". This has been realised through the establishment of the Office of Alcohol and Other Drugs.

1984

The Beginning

WANADA is established with 13 member organisations and 28 individual members. Quality and efficiency of services is seen as a key priority.

1991

This year saw WANADA refine its objectives to:
-Enhance the stability and security of AOD NGOS
-Maximise the cooperation and coordination of AOD NGOS
-Represent to the government the views and concerns of AOD NGOS.

1997

Funding Cut

"Regrettably, WANADA continues into the new year with an uncertain financial future. Once again, we will be reliant on the support of core agencies for the lion's share of the income". (Arthur Toon, Chairperson 1997)

2001

Community Drug Summit

The Community Summit recommended a new governance structure, increased early intervention and more treatment, particularly detoxification.

2005

WANADA Turns 21



2010

WANADA initiated new support for student placements - "Identifying the opportunity for students, who previously had not considered the AOD sector for a placement. Significant resources, information and education have been provided with input from consumers, workers and students to a number of agencies" (Annual Report, 2010)

2012

ISO Accreditation

"WANADA attained ISO accreditation in November 2011. It was the first AOD peak body nationally to achieve accreditation. WANADA also launched the Standard on Culturally Secure Practice. Again, this is a national first, supporting AOD services with a relevant Standard for both systems management and industry specific practice". (Professor Mike Daube, Chairperson 2012)

2016

WANADA signed a data-sharing Memorandum of Understanding with the Mental Health Commission, enabling access to existing SIMS data. This access enhances WANADA's insight into client and service trends, supporting informed advocacy for improved data and outcomes management.

2023

Time for Action

The Time for Action statement stressed the need for genuine co-design and engagement with local Aboriginal communities to ensure effective policy, planning and procurement.

1987

User Group Formed - Western Australia IV Equity

"WANADA is becoming a real negotiating body on behalf of its members, and hopefully the future will bring benefits to us". (Ross Lonnie, Chairperson 1987)

The backbone of WANADA's advocacy was based on the fact that non-government sector treated 80% of the client populations with limited staff and only 20% of the alcohol and drug dollar.

1990

"If we can continue to represent a unified and strong field, we can continue to work toward being recognised for the high quality, non-government alcohol and other drug sector, which we intrinsically know ourselves to be". (Andrea Nixon, ED 1990)

1998

National Illicit Drug Strategy provides funds to allow for the development of a range of services in WA.

"We should remember that most drug related harm arises from two legal drugs, alcohol and tobacco". (David Ryder, Chairperson 1998)

1992-93

A NEW WANADA

New premises, new furniture, new computers, new director. It was to be a year of significant change for WANADA. However, there was little State support for the sector and the amount of funding services had to work with.

1999-2000

WANADA launches several projects and a brand new website. Childcare Access Project starts - covering the cost of childcare while parents and carers access AOD treatment services.

2004

2003-04 saw the development and start of the implementation of the Quality Framework. "The Independence of WANADA is critical in being able to support services to establish continuous quality improvement processes, and potentially coordinate reviews of services to enable a more comprehensive identification of sector support and needs". (Jan Battley, A/President 2004)

2006

More diversity of funding than ever before: DAO, AAERF, Lotterywest, OATSIH, OAH, Criminal Confiscations and Perth Central Coastal Division of General Practice. "This is clear evidence of increasing confidence from funding bodies that the capacity building potential of WANADA as the AOD sector peak body is cost efficient and effective". (Jill Rundle, ED 2006)

2009

"...Change of State Government saw responsibility for AOD policy matters being allocated to the Minister for Mental Health and both State and Federal Governments exploring policy developments that may have a significant impact on AOD service delivery in future years". (Denzil McCotter, Chairperson 2009)

2014

"I expect that WANADA's role and profile in the State as the peak AOD organisation will be even more important in the coming years". (Terry Murphy, Chairperson 2014)

2015

On 1 July 2015, the Mental Health Commission and the Drug and Alcohol Office amalgamated, establishing an integrated approach to mental health and AOD service delivery for Western Australia.

2019

WANADA strengthened its constitution to ensure board consideration of membership applications is based on quality and accountability standards.

2024

40 Years Strong

WANADA celebrates its 40th anniversary, marking a significant milestone in the organisations history of driving change in the Alcohol and Other Drug Sector.

2022

WANADA continued to lead a range of sector-driven projects, including workforce planning, Aboriginal Leadership, and the development of cross-sector intersecting capability tools.

2020

COVID-19

COVID-19 came with the need to focus on building sustainability of the sector and the urgent requirements of diverse vulnerable communities that the sector serves across the State. Throughout these challenging times, it was heartening to see the sector's unwavering commitment to service continuity and quality.

2017

The previous State Government introduced initiatives under its Methamphetamine Strategy. Following the election of a new State Government in March, the Methamphetamine Action Plan was launched.

2013

"In this double election year WANADA has hosted two very well received sector forums. The State pre-election forum had presentations from the Liberal Party WA, WA Labor Party and WA Greens and attracted some positive media attention for WANADA and the sector. A similar forum in advance of the Federal election was the only event of its kind in WA, positioning the AOD sector well in a complex political environment". (Professor Mike Daube, Chairperson 2013)

2007

"Major new projects and developments in the past twelve months include commencing the Aboriginal Network, Diversion policy and support, GP Access Pilot, development of resources to enhance the Quality Framework and the establishment of an online search directory of services". (Jill Rundle, ED 2007)
The GP Access Project aimed to improve the health of AOD service users by assisting them to regularly visit a GP.