



AOD Treatment Sector Update: Projects, Activities & Opportunities to Have Your Say

The Department of Health, Tasmania and Primary Health Tasmania are collaborating to share information about recent projects and upcoming opportunities for engagement for Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Sector participants. We understand that community members, staff, volunteers, clients, and support people operating within the AOD Sector have already been generous with their time and views when it comes to talking about AOD service delivery in Tasmania. To make the most of your time, we have outlined upcoming consultation activities so you can choose when, where and how you would like to have your say when it comes to changes that impact you, the sector you work within and the people you support. We have also provided an update on the work you have previously contributed to. The Department of Health, Tasmania and Primary Health Tasmania value your time and contribution and thank everyone who has shared their views and experience with us to progress the work we highlight below.

Update – Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Directorate

Who we are:

The Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Directorate (The Directorate) of the Tasmanian Department of Health (DoH) supports the delivery of mental health, suicide prevention and AOD strategies, initiatives, and services across Tasmania. The Directorate undertakes projects, research, policy development, monitoring, evaluation, commissioning, and grants management. It supports the delivery of mental health, suicide prevention and AOD services that are strongly consumer and carer focused, high quality, sustainable, accessible, inclusive, and safe.

The Directorate works closely with Australian and Tasmanian government, consumers, families and carer organisations, the community sector, and organisations representing diverse communities, to reduce stigma and promote and raise public awareness of mental health issues, suicide prevention, and AOD use in Tasmania.

Recent projects, activities & publications:

The Directorate has released the following AOD-related publications over the last six months:

- Tasmanian Drug Strategy 2024-2029 – New release (launch to be announced shortly)
- [Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Strategy 2022-2027 and Implementation Plan One](#)
- [Rethink 2020 – 2023-2024 Implementation Plan](#)

Upcoming projects & consultation opportunities:

What? <i>(Project Description)</i>	How? <i>(Opportunities for Engagement)</i>	Who? <i>(Suitable Participants)</i>	When? <i>(Key Dates)</i>
Development of the new Tasmanian Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention Framework – encompassing mental health, alcohol and other drugs and suicide prevention	Face-to-face focus groups and online interviews	Service providers, including government and community and people with lived experience	May 2024
Lived experience representative organisation strategic review	Face-to-face and online	Key stakeholders from the alcohol and other drugs, mental health and suicide prevention sectors	To be confirmed

Update – AOD Reform Program Team

Who we are:

The AOD Reform Program Team of the DoH are responsible for coordinating the implementation of the [Reform Agenda for the AOD Sector in Tasmania](#) and associated [Implementation Plans](#). We are currently a team of two project managers who sit within the broader Mental Health Reform Team (which in turn sits within the Statewide Mental Health Services branch of the Tasmanian Health Service).

You can find more information about the AOD Reform Agenda on the Department of Health's [AOD Reform Agenda webpage](#).

Recent projects, activities & publications:

Informed by your input, over the last six months our team has:

- Released the [AOD Reform Agenda Implementation Plan](#) (December 2023).
- Reviewed the recently launched [Detox@Home Service](#), operated by the Alcohol and Drug Service (ADS) in Launceston and New Town (March 2024).
- Launched a new Drug and Alcohol Emergency Department Brief Intervention Team within the Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH), orientated staff and expanded the existing AOD RHH Consultation and Liaison Team (January-February 2024).
- Finalised all remaining initial AOD reform priority projects (namely the establishment of a lived experience advocacy network and exploration work to support the establishment of a lived experience organisation (led by the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Council, Tasmania (ATDC)), the establishment of a Statewide AOD Homeless Consultation and Liaison Service and the bolstering of AOD specialist staffing, statewide, across the ADS) (April – May 2024).
- Coordinated work with MHADD, ATDC, Primary Health Tasmania, ADS, and Statewide Mental Health Services to progress action under the AOD Reform Agenda Implementation Plan (December 2023 – May 2024).
- Supported ATDC to roll out sector-wide trauma informed care training, recruit new youth lived experience advocates and engage a consultant to build relationships with media to progress the implementation of the AOD Communications Charter (December 2023 – May 2024).
- Started work on the development of three new reform projects (AOD Service Delivery Framework, AOD Youth Service and Practice Framework, AOD Workforce Development Strategy) and scheduled consultation (February 2024).

- Collaborated with ATDC to plan a series of sector-wide networking events (April 2024).

Upcoming projects & consultation opportunities:

What? <i>(Project Description)</i>	How? <i>(Opportunities for Engagement)</i>	Who? <i>(Suitable Participants)</i>	When? <i>(Key Dates)</i>
Cross-Sector Facilitated Networking Event	Regional (North, North-West, South) networking breakfasts hosted by AOD Reform and ATDC	AOD sector and mental health sector professionals	17 – 22 June 2024
Tasmanian AOD Youth Service and Practice Framework	Regional (North, North-West, South) focus groups* (face to face)	AOD sector participants**	June 2024, Aug 2024
AOD Service Delivery Framework for Tasmania	Regional (North, North-West, South) focus groups* (face to face)	AOD sector participants**	June 2024, Aug 2024
AOD Workforce Development Strategy for Tasmania	Regional (North, North-West, South) focus groups* (online)	AOD sector participants**	July 2024, Aug 2024
*Project focus groups will be followed by online statewide consultation opportunities, scheduled for mid-late 2024.			
**AOD sector participants means anyone who has (or has had) involvement in delivering or receiving AOD treatment services in Tasmania.			

Update – Primary Health Tasmania

Who we are:

Primary Health Tasmania (Tasmania’s primary health network) is tasked by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care with the planning and commissioning of federally funded AOD treatment services in Tasmania. Primary Health Tasmania currently commissions four organisations to deliver community-based AOD initiatives across the State; you can find more about them on [Our Services Portal](#).

Our AOD leads are positioned across our Health Service Commissioning and Health System Improvement teams. Our work in this area is guided by [our Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Program Strategy](#). We continue to align our work to the priorities of the AOD Reform Agenda and the Tasmanian Drug Strategy and strengthen our commitment to collaboration with the community sector and our state Alcohol and Drug Service.

Recent projects, activities & publications:

- Hosted the National Real Time Prescription Monitoring rollout – TasScript education event TasScript for health practitioners | Tasmanian Department of Health in collaboration with the Tasmanian Department of Health's Pharmaceutical Services Branch for prescribers and pharmacists with 524 registrations (April 2024).
- Supported peer workforce activities – see our Seven Steps to Develop an Organisational Lived Expertise Engagement Framework, published on the Primary Health Tasmania website.
- Updated Tasmanian HealthPathways (see below).

Tasmanian HealthPathways:

Tasmanian HealthPathways offers primary care clinicians locally agreed information to make the right decisions, together with patients, at the point of care. HealthPathways is designed and written for use during a primary care consultation. Each Pathway provides clear and concise guidance for assessing and managing a patient with a particular symptom or condition in primary care. Pathways also include information about making requests to services in the local health system.

Content is developed collaboratively by general practitioners, hospital clinicians, and a wide range of other health professionals. Each Pathway is evidence-informed, but also reflects local reality, and aims to preserve clinical autonomy and patient choice.

Recent updates include:

- Reviewed and updated the Benzodiazepine Use and Dependence Pathway to include pregnancy resources (January 2024).
- Reviewed and updated the Hepatitis C (HCV) and Hepatitis C Treatment Pathways to include transmission and harm minimisation advice and support and links to both national and local supports where appropriate (December 2023).
- Updated the Cannabis Use and Methamphetamine and Stimulant Use Pathways to include Community Online Drug Education (CODE) (den.org.au) (January 2024).
- Updated the Opioid Use and Dependence Pathway to include naloxone resources for both general practitioners and consumers (January 2024).
- Reviewed and updated the Alcohol and Drug Requests Pathway to include additional services in the North-West (February 2024).

Upcoming projects & consultation opportunities:

To keep across upcoming Primary Health Tasmania tender opportunities in the AOD space, people can register on our [eTender portal](#).

What? <i>(Project Description)</i>	How? <i>(Opportunities for Engagement)</i>	Who? <i>(Suitable Participants)</i>	When? <i>(Key Dates)</i>
Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Treatment (MATOD) - GP stigma reduction training pilot	Direct engagement with GPs	GPs	Late 2024
Promotion Tasmanian HealthPathways	Rural Health Conference	GPs, registrars, supervisors, students	25, 26 May 2024
Primary Health Tasmania continues to organise education opportunities for primary healthcare professionals to support effective AOD treatment and management	Participation in education events (see our website events calendar)	GPs, practice managers, practice nurses, allied health professionals	Ongoing
Digital roadshow: Topics include national and state digital reforms and tools, how they support patient care, and what is coming in the future	Attendance at regional events (North, North-West and South)	GPs, nurses and practice managers	28, 29, 30 May 2024

How can I find out more?

If you would like to participate in or seek more information about any of the Department of Health, Tasmania or Primary Health Tasmania projects and engagement opportunities above, you can contact:

- mhadd@health.tas.gov.au – Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Directorate.
- aodreform@health.tas.gov.au – AOD Reform Program Team.
- aod@primaryhealthtas.com.au – Primary Health Tasmania's AOD Team.

We will be in touch with further communications. Thank you in anticipation of your ongoing support for this important work.