



Alcohol and Other Drugs Reform Program

Tasmanian Alcohol and Other Drugs Youth Service & Practice Framework Project

What is this project?

This project is called the Tasmanian Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Youth Service and Practice Framework Project. The objective of this project is to develop a Youth Service and Practice Framework for the AOD Sector in Tasmania.

This project is an action under the [Reform Agenda for the AOD Sector in Tasmania](#) (the AOD Reform Agenda).

What is a framework?

A framework is a foundational document used to provide high-level context (e.g. about an entire system), establish a common language, and outline shared arrangements, approaches, and principles.

A framework describes overarching concepts, contexts, standards, roles, and responsibilities.

In application, frameworks are often underpinned by a plan/policy/protocol/guideline that clearly defines and guides how to implement content within the framework.

What will be included in this framework?

The final content of this Framework will be determined through consultation. We think that the AOD Youth Service and Practice Framework for Tasmania might outline the following:

- what constitutes an AOD youth treatment service in Tasmania (service types and definitions)
- why AOD youth treatment is delivered in Tasmania (Tasmanian context and population)
- how AOD youth treatment is delivered in Tasmania (overarching service principles, aims and features, service delivery requirements, referral processes, and client outcomes)
- where AOD youth treatment services are delivered in Tasmania
- where each Tasmanian AOD youth treatment type sits within a continuum of care
- detail on child safety and wellbeing factors for consideration in AOD treatment delivery to young people in Tasmania
- characteristics of effective / best practice youth AOD service delivery
- developmentally appropriate approaches to providing AOD treatment to young people with co-occurring issues
- how to use the Framework (including using the Framework when working with the priority populations identified in the AOD Reform Agenda).

How can a framework help?

Frameworks are useful tools to ensure consistency. We can use frameworks to establish a shared understanding of a situation, as well as a common language that people can use when talking about AOD treatment for young people in Tasmania.

We hope that establishing a shared understanding of where and how we deliver AOD services for young people in Tasmania will make service navigation easier and aid coordination, collaboration, and communication between the components of the current AOD youth service system (also known as 'vertical integration').

The process of developing this framework may also identify additional service gaps. This may inform future resource allocation and funding.

Who is progressing this project?

The Department of Health is progressing this project, with support from the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Council of Tasmania (ATDC), as part of the AOD Reform Agenda.

Why?

This project was identified by AOD sector participants as a priority reform project. The Department of Health is leading the implementation of the AOD Reform Agenda.

The major output of this project, the Framework, is an important foundational task and is required to aid ongoing reform work (for example, the development of treatment models and guidelines).

How?

Project work under the AOD Reform Agenda is governed by the AOD Reform Program Control Group. This Group includes representatives from the private, community and government AOD sectors, and is inclusive of clinical and lived experience. The AOD Reform PCG will ensure the project remains on track.

The Department of Health will need to ensure that the Framework that is developed reflects the experience of people working in, and being supported by, the Tasmanian AOD Youth Treatment Sector. To accomplish this, we will engage in extensive consultation. Initially, we will hold a series of specialised focus groups. These groups will help us develop the initial Framework. Then, we will open consultation to the Tasmanian community. This consultation will be statewide and will occur online.

When?

Work to complete this project will occur over the 2024-2025 financial year.

Initial focus groups will run (by invite only) from June to August 2024. Statewide consultation is expected to occur in late 2024 / early 2025.

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