



AIVL

Australian Injecting &
Illicit Drug Users League

STRATEGIC PLAN

**2022
-2024**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

AIVL acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land where we work and live. We pay our respects to First Nations people and pay respects to elders past, present and emerging. We celebrate the stories, culture and traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and thank Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of AIVL's network and community for the valuable contribution that they make to our work.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COMMUNITY

AIVL acknowledges the courage, dedication and hard work, of those from our community who came before us. AIVL will continue with this important work and will always honour the organisation's and networks' roots

ABOUT

The Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL) is the Australian national peak organisation focused on advancing the health and human rights of people with living or lived experience of drug use. Representing state and territory peer-based organisations, AIVL's overall focus is to ensure that the 'voice' of people who use drugs is heard at a national level.

VISION

A world where all people who use drugs experience the same health and human rights as the wider community.

MISSION

To provide leadership at a national level, supporting our members to empower all people with lived and living experience of drug use to achieve equity and dignity across all areas of their lives.

VALUES

- AIVL is underpinned by a network of peers and will continue to drive its work acknowledging that legitimate representation of people who use drugs is done by peers.
- AIVL Acknowledges all people and cultures in this course of its work in advocating for the health and human rights of people who use drugs, and the importance of standing together in the fight against stigma and discrimination.
- AIVL works from an evidence-informed approach in its work advocating for the health, human and social rights of people who use drugs.
- AIVL acknowledges 'self-determination' as being central to PWUD being able to manage their own health, emotional and social wellbeing.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: SUPPORT AND DEVELOP SOLIDARITY AMONG THE AIVL NETWORK

- Provide leadership and representation for our network's needs and priorities at a national level.
- Strengthen the relationships with and between AIVL's organisational members.
- Increase AIVL's affiliate membership network.
- Increase the network's reach within diverse and marginalised communities, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, people from Culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, women, young people, and the LGBTIQ+ community, as priority populations.
- Utilise the AIVL network's unique and authentic connection with the community to promote health and human rights.
- Acknowledging People who use drugs as a priority population.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: ENHANCE AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL RESPONSE TO DRUG OVERDOSE AND SUPPORT AIVL'S COMMUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO REDUCING OVERDOSE RELATED DEATH AND HARM.

- Raise the national community awareness of overdose.
- Lead AIVL's network with respect to a collaborative national response to overdose, particularly in the area of drug trends.
- Advocate nationally for the enhancement of life-saving health and harm reduction resources for our community.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: CONTINUE IN THE FIGHT TO ELIMINATE BLOOD BORNE VIRUSES(BBVS) BY TARGETING SUPPORT FOR PRIORITY POPULATIONS OR PEOPLE MARGINALISED FROM MAINSTREAM SERVICES.

- Support the AIVL network at national level to support marginalised people who are unlikely to access mainstream health services.
- Advocate at a national level for greater recognition of the ongoing role that the AIVL network plays in eliminating BBVs among people who inject drugs.
- Promoting to all levels of government the key role that peer-based organisations play in meeting the World Health Organisation goals to eliminate Hepatitis C.
- Increasing treatment rates for people impacted by Blood Borne Viruses via AIVL's community networks.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: CHALLENGE STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS.

- Raise national awareness about the harms of stigma and discrimination against people who use drugs.
- Advocate at a national level against stigma and discrimination, highlighting the benefits of support over punishment.
- Reduce individual and systemic stigma and discrimination through advocacy and the promotion of the peer workforce (and our expertise) as a professional discipline among AIVL's general and affiliate members.
- Advocate for the health and human rights of all people and seek to be a 'critical friend' to policymakers about the impacts of criminalised drug use over promoting positive health outcomes.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5: ESTABLISH A NATIONAL STRATEGIC RESEARCH PROGRAM TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP AND ADVICE ON ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR RESEARCH INVOLVING PEOPLE WITH LIVED OR LIVING EXPERIENCE OF DRUG USE, AND TO GENERATE NEW RESEARCH EVIDENCE TO ADVANCE AIVL'S POLICY AGENDA.

- Provide national leadership via co-production with the wider Australian academic community undertaking research involving people who use drugs.
- Influence public policy through both the translation of existing research and pursuing new research opportunities.
- Support and develop research capacity, within the AIVL Network.
- Design, initiate, publish, and promote research that involves peers in a meaningful way, at every level, to increase the evidence-based of peer-led services.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 6: INCREASE AND DIVERSIFY THE AIVL NETWORK'S REVENUE STREAMS AND OVERALL FUNDING

- Raise awareness and advocate for public funding that acknowledges the wider remit of activities that the AIVL network achieves.
 - Advocate for funding that is specifically related to harm reduction and reducing stigma and discrimination against people who use drugs.
 - Increase funding from the Australian Government including BBV, alcohol and other drug funding and other health streams.
 - Diversify funding to include non-government sources.
 - Increase AIVL's fee for service offering.
 - Advocate for peer education, peer support and advocacy to be funded across all areas of health for people who use drugs, including overdose prevention and reversal and primary health care.
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