



AIVL

Australian Injecting &
Illicit Drug Users League

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-23



Acknowledgement of Community

AIVL acknowledges the legacy of the Peers who went before us and those who continue to strive for equity and social justice in the face of criminalisation. We reaffirm our commitment to work alongside our community of people who use drugs, challenging stigma and discrimination in all their manifestations.

AIVL acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live and work. We pay our profound respects to Elders past and present.

Always was, and always will be Aboriginal land.

We celebrate the stories, culture, wisdom 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 they make to the lives of our people, our environments, our communities and our work.



Acknowledgement of Country

**Advancing
the
wellbeing,
health and
human
rights of
people who
use drugs
in Australia.**

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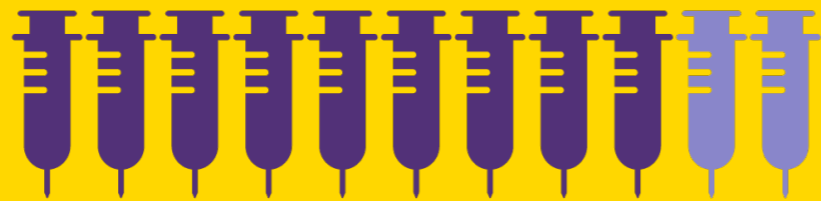
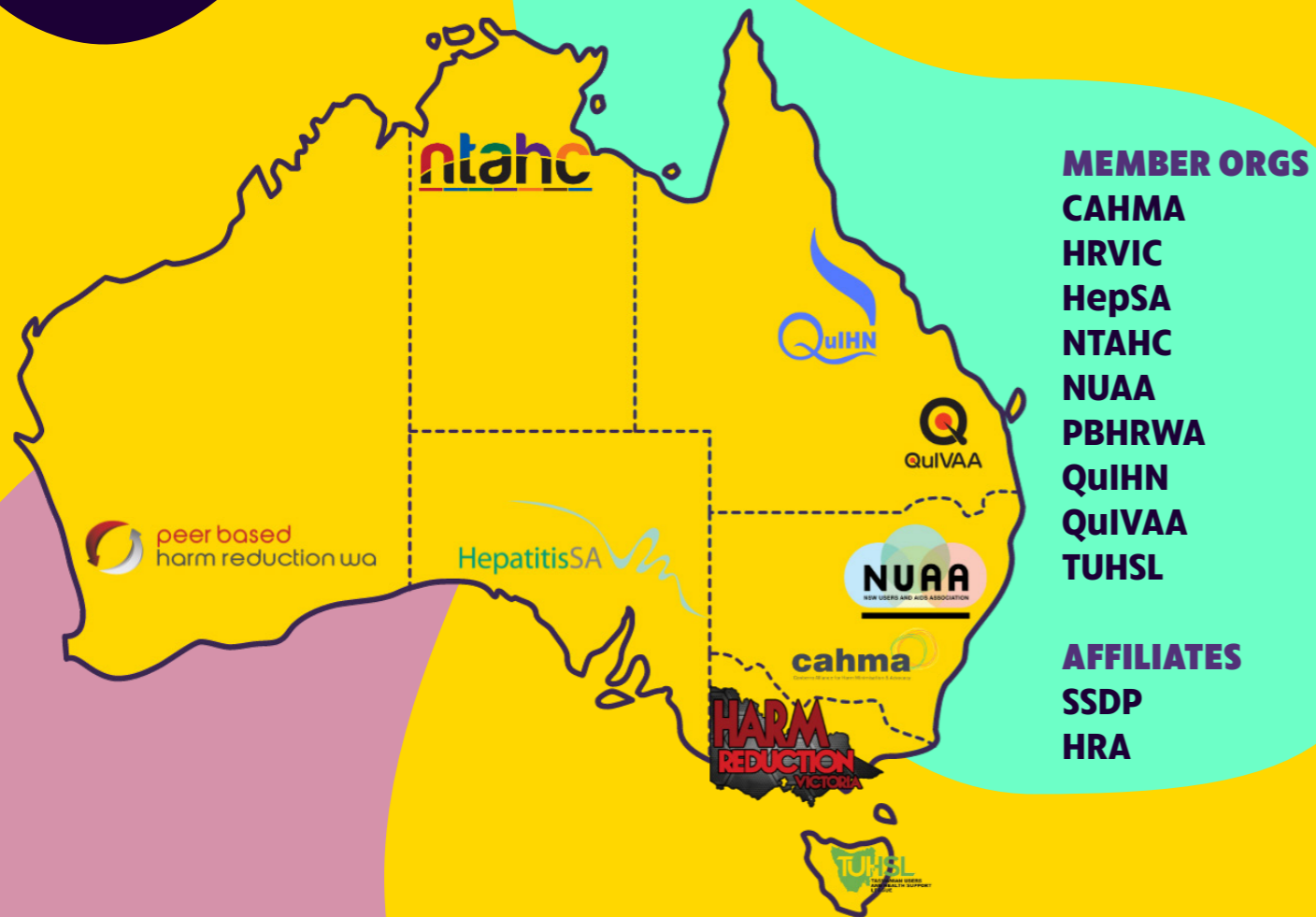
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About AIVL

The Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL) is the peer-led national peak representing state and territory peer-based drug user organisations and advancing the wellbeing, health and human rights of people who use drugs illicitly in Australia.



AIVL represents 9 member organisations and 2 affiliate members

Vision

A world where all people who use drugs experience the same wellbeing, 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.

Strategic Priorities

1. Support and develop solidarity among the AIVL network.
2. Enhance Australia's national response to drug overdose and support AIVL's community to contribute to reducing overdose related death and harm.
3. Continue in the fight to eliminate blood borne viruses (BBVs) by targeting support for priority populations or people marginalised from mainstream services.
4. Challenge stigma and discrimination against people who use drugs.
5. Establish a national strategic research program to provide leadership and advice on ethical standards for research involving people with lived or lived experience of drug use, and to generate new research evidence to advance AIVL's policy agenda.
6. Increase and diversify the AIVLs Network's revenue streams and overall funding.

A word from our President

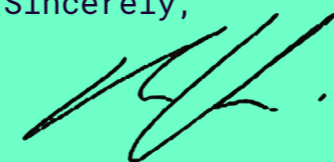
2022-23 has been a year of exciting evolution for the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League, marked by transition, deep listening, strengthened connections, and authentic collaborations. We thank our hardworking team for their dedication and our incredible AIVL network for their support and engagement.

A standout moment of 2022 was AIVL's Inaugural Stigma Conference held on the 17th of November in the Great Hall of the Australian Parliament House. The event was a great success and brought together 112 people from over 60 organisations and was viewed via livestream by 994 people. Congratulations to everyone who contributed to the conception and execution of this event.

As we reflect on the past year, the AIVL board extends sincere appreciation to our outgoing CEO, Jake Docker, and our Interim CEO, Geoff Manu. Their efforts have been instrumental in propelling AIVL forward as the National Peak Body championing the wellbeing, health and human rights of people who use drugs illicitly in Australia.

Looking ahead to 2023-24, we would like to congratulate our incoming CEO, John Gobeil. Already, John has brought a dynamic energy to AIVL that the board, team, and network are excited about. With John's leadership at the helm, we eagerly anticipate the opportunities and successes the coming years hold for our organisation and our network.

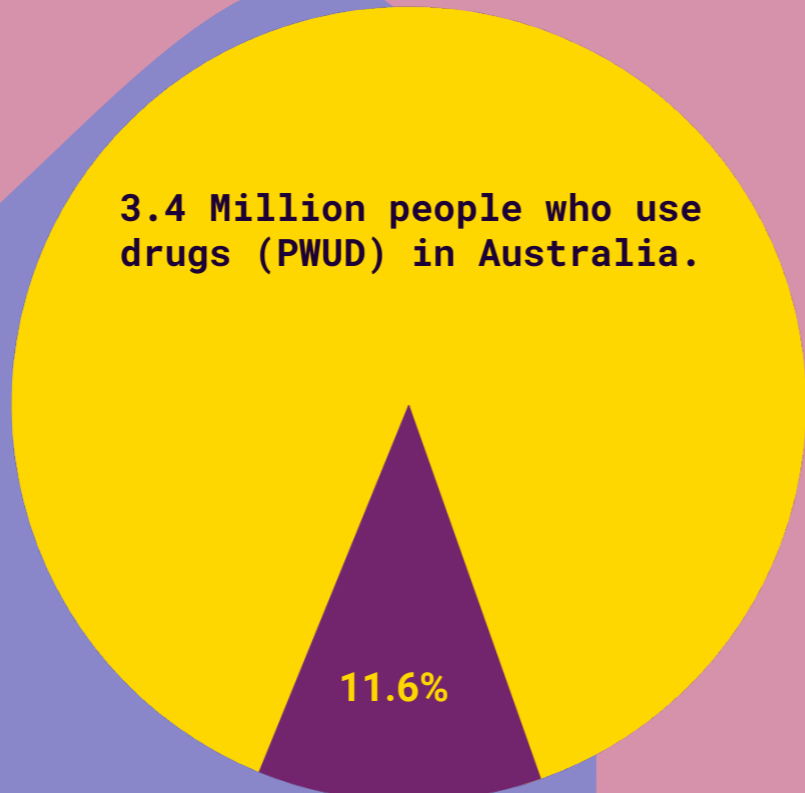
Sincerely,



Chris Gough

Our Community

3.4 Million people who use drugs (PWUD) in Australia.



More than 2 in 5 Australians have used an illicit drug in their lifetime

People who use drugs (PWUD) belong to diverse sub-communities and have intersecting identities including but not limited to:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse
- Gender Diverse
- LGBTIQ+
- Older Persons
- Parents and Carers
- People living with a Disability
- People living with HCV (Hepatitis C Virus)
- People living with HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)
- People Who Inject Drugs
- Refugees and Migrants
- Women
- Young People

Our Network

AIVL represents 9 member organisations and 2 affiliate members.

In 2022-23 Our Membership Included



148 Peer Workers



1221 Members



776 Volunteers

AIVL represents 9 member organisations and 2 affiliate members.



Our Membership reached 650,541 people with their services.



Our Membership reached 77,558 people with NSP services.



Our Membership conducted 6751 tests for BBV'S and STI's

Our Work

Our events attracted people from 60+ Australian and International organisations.

OUR EVENTS

3294 people attended our events

1,709 people attended in person or participated online at a live event

1,585 people watched recordings of our events

AIVL held 2 forums and 1 conference

DIGITAL PRESENCE

Our National NSP directory was used 717 times

Our social media community grew to 6664 people

Our website was visited 18,626 times

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

17 Articles

4 Position Papers

3 Coordinated National Campaigns

REPRESENTATION

3 Conference and Organising Committees

3 Advocacy and Policy Committees

2 Research and Expert Advisory Reference Groups

5 Harm Reduction Peer Support Advisory Groups

1 Public Health Data Collection Committee

4 HIV and Blood Borne Viruses Groups

1 Safe Supply Network

1 Emergency Response Network

It's Your Right Campaign

AIVL facilitates the National Peer Network (NPN) with peers from AIVL's member organisations contributing their state and territory experience and ensuring AIVL's work maintains relevance across the jurisdictions.

In the last financial year the It's Your Right campaign launched. The campaign was designed in collaboration with the AIVL NPN, Eliminate Hepatitis C Australia Partnership (EC Australia) and the Burnet Institute. It's Your Right promoted hepatitis C testing and treatment to people who inject drugs. The goal was to let people know that the new treatments are easier, have less side effects, can be done while using drugs, and that people can be treated again, and again.

The campaign used billboards, posters, street advertising, social media, and a dedicated website to raise awareness about treatments, encouraging people to connect with their local peer organisations. Peers are people with lived experience of hep C and/or injecting drug use and are trusted sources of support. Members of the AIVL network had Peers out on the ground to talk to people and to provide testing at key events.

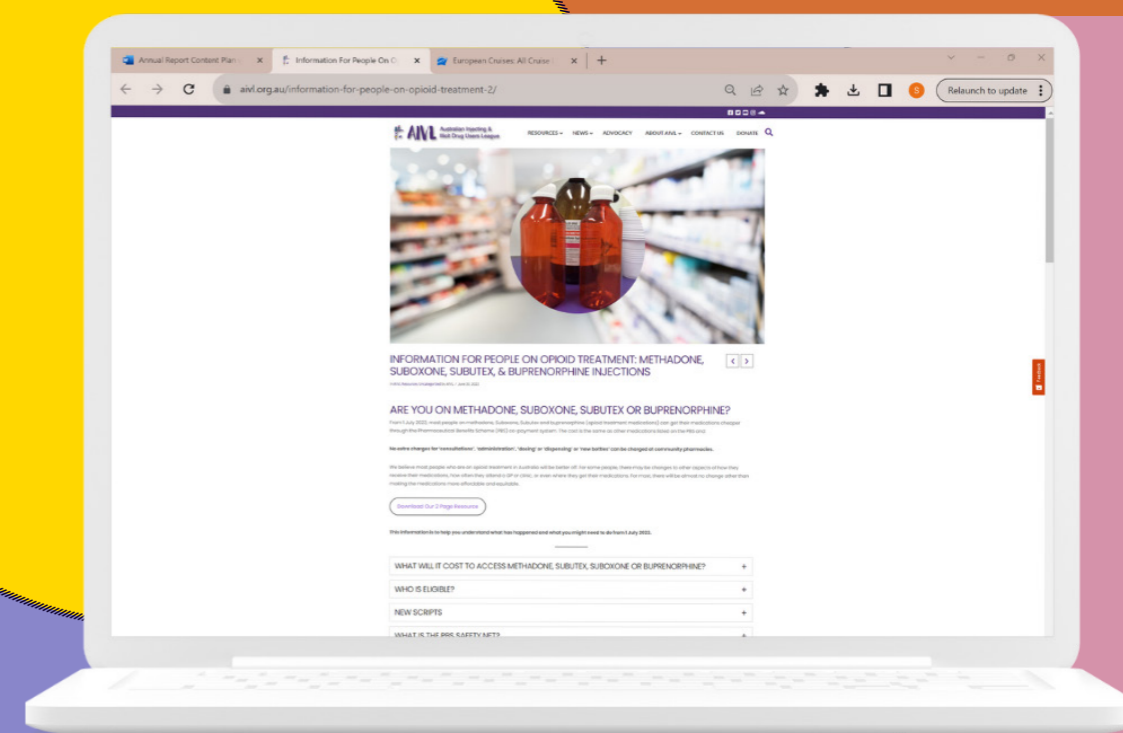


Reform to the Opioid Dependence Treatment (ODT) Program

On the 9th May 2023 the Australian Government committed to reforming the ODT Program, our community had been fighting for the changes for decades. The changes make the program more affordable for most people and were a major step towards equitable access to Opioid Dependence Treatment medications.

Prior to the transition period of the program, AIVL created digital and print-based resources to inform and support consumers. This digital resource was accessed 719 times and the print-based resources were downloaded 56 times.

AIVL also held two forums to discuss the implications of the system change with consumers, providers, workers and other stakeholders.



Consumers Forum

On the 30th June 2023 AIVL held an online forum for consumers and People Who Use Drugs to discuss the changes prior to implementation. 97 people attended the forum and 16 people have watched the recording on the AIVL YouTube Channel.

97 People attended in person

16 People watched recording

Forum for Workers and Providers

On the 27th June 2023, in partnership with the Australian Alcohol and other Drugs Council (AADC) we held an online forum for providers, workers and other interested stakeholders. 1,500 people attended the forum and 575 people have watched the recording on the AADC's YouTube Channel.

575 People watched

1500 People attended

Panellists from across both forums included:

- Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care
- Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL)
- Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation & Advocacy (CAHMA)
- Centre for Alcohol and Other Drugs, NSW Ministry of Health
- Harm Reduction Victoria's Pharmacotherapy Advocacy Mediation Support (PAMS) Service
- QuIHN
- Queensland Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies (QNADA)
- The NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA)

Australian Stigma Conference

The inaugural Australian Stigma Conference was held on the 17th of November 2022, in the Great Hall at the Australian Parliament House. The forum-style conference brought together 112 people from over 60 organisations, including policymakers, healthcare professionals and People Who Use Drugs to engage in dialogue and hear about how stigma impacts People Who Use Drugs. The 2019 Australian Drug household survey confirmed that around 43% of Australians over the age of 14 are willing to admit to illicit drug use at some point in their lifetime, indicating that stigma and drug use continues to have some type of impact on almost half of Australia's adult population.

The Stigma Conference presented issues including the impact of stigma on illicit drug overdoses in Australia, stigma impeding Australia's 2030 Hep C elimination goals, stigma and language, stigma and people's experiences with pharmacotherapy and stigma undermining harm reduction more broadly.

The live stream of the Australian Stigma Conference was watched online by 994 people and the conference webpage was visited by 3,515 in the reporting period.



Financial Report

Total Equity
\$576,791

Total Liabilities
\$724,116

Financial Position

Total Assets
\$1,300,907

Activity Expenses

Employee Wages & Benefits \$630,500

Representation \$97,523

Consultancy \$77,696

Rent \$64,031

Events \$43,763

IT \$32,354

Professional Fees \$24,348

Subscriptions \$8,909

Training \$8,247

Depreciation \$3,410

Other Expenses \$1,256

Postage \$721

Materials \$379

Funding Sources

88%

Grants

11%

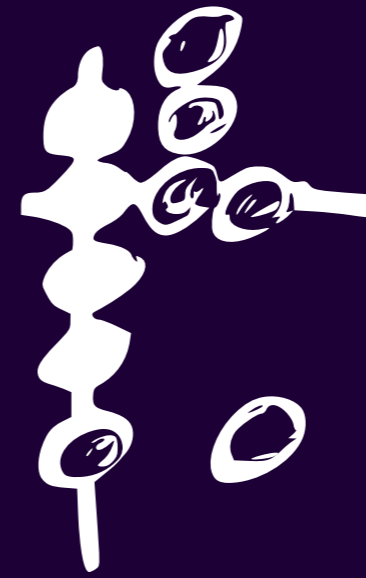
Sponsorship

0.7%

Reimbursements

0.1%

Investment Income



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Thank you!