



AIIVL

ANNUAL
REPORT

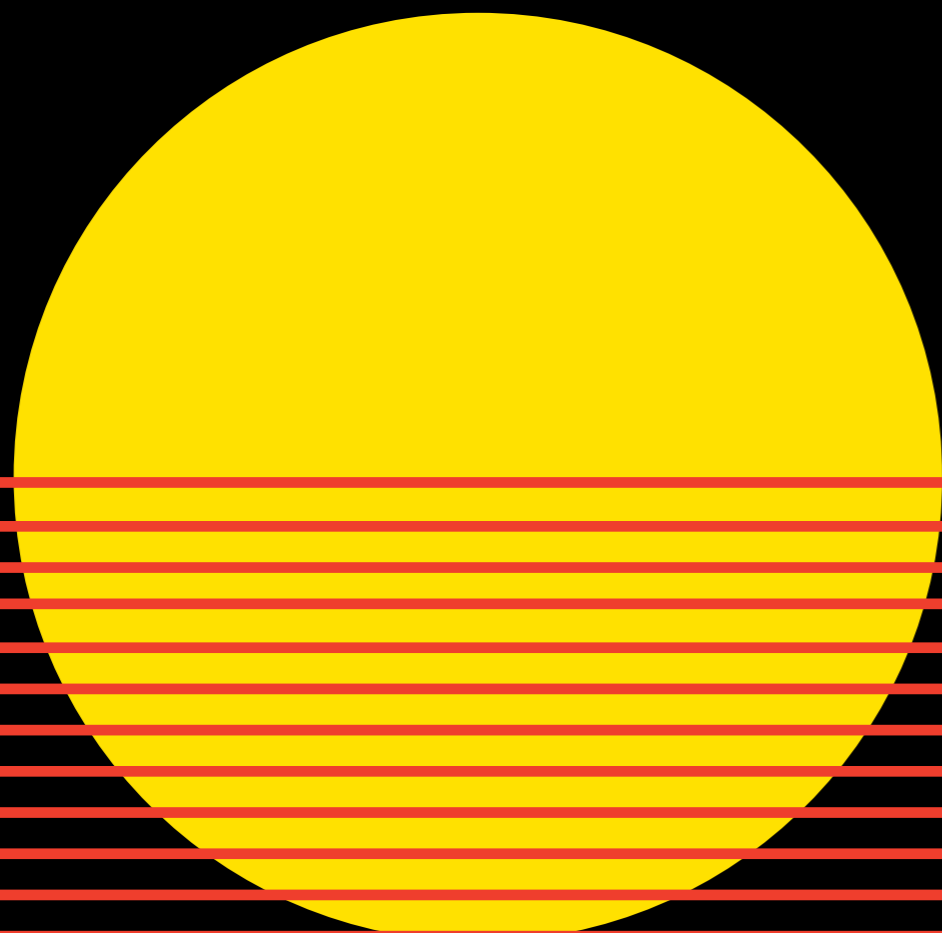
AIIVL
ANNUAL
REPORT
2023-24

2023-24

Acknowledgement of Country

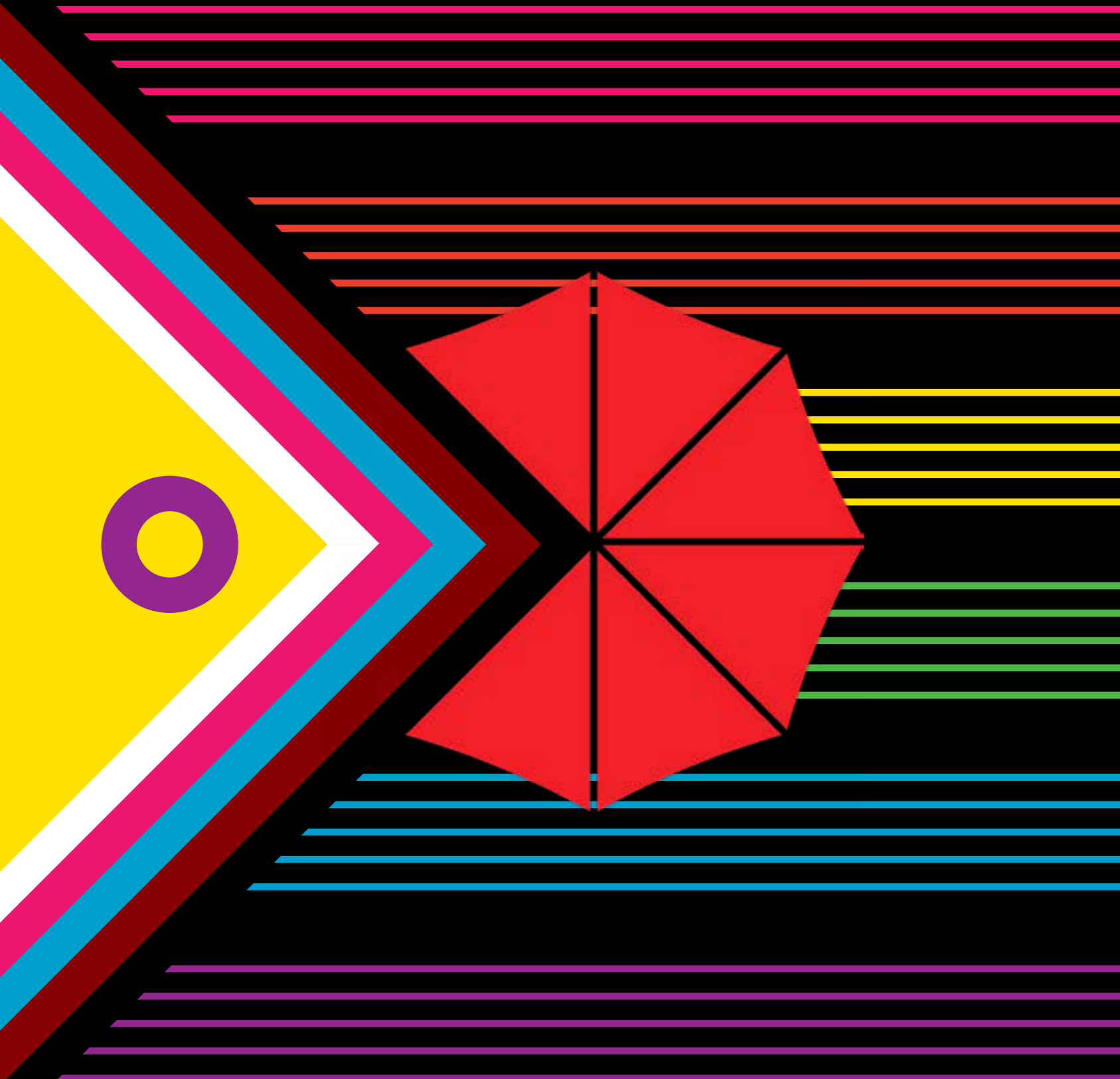
AIVL acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live and work. We pay our profound respects to Elders past and present. Always was, and always will be Aboriginal land.

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 the AIVL Network and community for the unique and essential contribution they make to the lives of our people, our environments, our communities and our work.



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

Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League

VISION

An equitable and socially just world where all people who use drugs (PWUD) experience the same wellbeing, health and human rights as the wider community.

MISSION

To provide strong and innovative peer leadership, support our members by coordinating crucial strategic actions, and empower all our community members to achieve holistic equity and social justice across all areas of our lives.

ABOUT AIVL

AIVL is the national peer-led peak organisation representing our network of peer-based harm reduction and Drug User Organisations (DUOs) and advancing the wellbeing, health and human rights of people who use drugs (PWUD).

OUR MEMBER ORGS

1. Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation & Advocacy (CAHMA)
2. Harm Reduction Victoria (HR VIC)
3. South Australia Harm Reduction Peer Services (SAhrps)
4. Northern Territory AIDS and Hepatitis Council (NTAHC)
5. New South Wales Users and AIDS Association (NUAA)
6. Peer Based Harm Reduction Western Australia (PBHR WA)
7. QuIVAA
8. QuIHN
9. Tasmanian Users and Health Support League (TUSHL)



AFFILIATE MEMBER ORGS

- + Harm Reduction Australia (HRA)
- + Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) Australia

THE BOARD



Chris Gough
he/him
President

Chris Gough is the Executive Director of CAHMA and The Connection health service, with over a decade of experience in the blood-borne virus (BBVs) and alcohol, tobacco, and other drug sectors and has identified as a person who uses drugs for 20 years. Chris' expertise centres around peer and consumer driven programming including peer education, peer treatment support, community development, consumer representation and advocacy. He has worked at MSIC and NUAA and has served on multiple boards, including HEM (formerly AFAO), NUAA, and ATODA. He holds a Bachelor of Science with Honours in entomology and developmental parasitology from the University of Queensland.



Leah McLeod
she/her
Vice President

Leah joined INPUD, the International Network of People who Use Drugs in 2024 as the Communications Specialist. During the previous 11 years she was employed at NUAA, the New South Wales Users and AIDS Association, as the Communications and Community Engagement Program Lead.



Sione Crawford
he/him
Treasurer

Sione Crawford has been the AIVL Treasurer since 2019 and has worked at three AIVL member organisations since 2004 in policy, advocacy, community development, and health promotion. He is currently the CEO of Harm Reduction Victoria. As part of the community of people who inject drugs and those affected by hepatitis C, Sione believes peer-based organisations are vital as both advocates and spaces where the community can work and be themselves.



Jane Dicka
she/her
Secretary

Jane has worked in various roles with people who use drugs since 1998. She is a keen advocate of peer work and lived experience in relation to drug use and is passionate about the health and human rights of people who use drugs. Jane currently coordinates the health promotion team at Harm Reduction Victoria.



Esha Leyden
she/her
Member Liaison Officer

Esha Leyden is a Peer Harm Reduction Worker at QuHn with seven years in the drug sector and over 34 years as part of the drug-using community. With lived experience of injecting drug use, incarceration, and hepatitis C treatment, she deeply understands the stigma and challenges faced by her community. Esha has participated in numerous forums, symposiums, and conferences, using her lived experience to educate and advocate for the health and human rights of people who inject drugs.

CEO REPORT

The 2023-24 financial year was a period of revitalisation for AIVL. The vibrant energy of hosting the 27th Harm Reduction International Conference 2023 in Melbourne, which wouldn't have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our member organisation, Harm Reduction Victoria, provided momentum to our network that carried throughout the year. The AIVL Network received the Gill Bradbury Award, Diane Lloyd won the Carol and Travis Jenkins Award, and Gaby Bruning received the Rolleston Award. This was a full circle moment as AIVL won the Rolleston Award in 1996 at the 7th Harm Reduction International Conference in Hobart 27 years earlier.

Following this success, we consulted with the Board, membership and internal working groups to strengthen our organisation and programs. The National Peer Network updated its structure to reflect the contribution from the representatives' lived-living experience and expertise to projects, the National Communication Network was created to connect the communications specialists of the membership and support the development of awareness campaigns and activities, and bi-monthly Network Delegate Meetings were implemented as a two-way reporting mechanism to coordinate and strengthen our national work. The AIVL leadership team made a priority of supporting the reformation of TUHSL, the Tasmanian Users Health & Support League, meaning AIVL has an engaged membership base in every Australian jurisdiction. The AIVL Network came together on 1 Nov 2023 for International Drug Users Day in Melbourne. The next day, we hosted the National Peer Summit, which included community consultations, strategic planning, presentations, and our Annual General Meeting.

The AIVL communications team re-launched our public Newsletter 'The Substance' and launched its new internal Network Newsletter to keep our member organisations up to date nationally. AIVL connected with over 21 thousand community members over this year. The AIVL Team worked on our new website, which includes an new and improved national NSP Directory with new functionalities. Updating the listings on the NSP Directory could not have happened without the collaboration of community leaders and all the State and Territory Health Departments.

In 2023-24, AIVL presented at the World Hepatitis Day event at Parliament House, sent a delegation to attend the INPUD Community Day and INHSU conference in Geneva, represented our community at the 67th Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna where 'harm reduction' was successfully included for the first time in a UN resolution, advocated strongly for people who use drugs (PWUD) and harm reduction at the World Hepatitis Summit, and I also had the opportunity to visit the GAT drop-in centre and drug consumption room. AIVL was proud to debut its work on the national harm reduction peer work framework, alongside a peer-led/ PWUD community-controlled national research strategy, and a comprehensive digital resource for people on opioid treatment.

Thank you sincerely to our the incredible AIVL Board, Network, team and community for this incredible year!



John Gobeil
They/Them
AIVL CEO

EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL DRUG USERS DAY

For our International Drug Users Day Celebration in November 2023, we invited members of the AIVL Network and guests from our community to have dinner in a relaxed, safe and celebratory space. At this event we also discussed the Harm Reduction International 2023 Conference Declaration and how we, as a network, could carry this document forward. The HR23 Declaration was developed by a coalition of organisations during the conference held in Melbourne hosted by AIVL and Harm Reduction Victoria. The declaration is intended to align our many voices to be clearly heard when advocating for change. In creating this declaration, an online poll and workshops were conducted, aimed at identifying collective priorities and developing simple yet powerful language to communicate them.

NATIONAL PEER SUMMIT

Our National Peer Summit in November 2023 brought together the AIVL Network from across Australia. Providing a space for meaningful dialogue, idea exchange, and strategising for a bright future led by people who use drugs. The day culminated with the AIVL AGM, where the voice of our network informs the governance of AIVL with people who use drugs/peers in attendance and the re-election of our Board of Directors.

TOPICS COVERED AT THE SUMMIT INCLUDED:

- + National Peer-led/PWUD Community-Controlled Research Agenda
- + National Peer Workforce Development
- + National Peer Work Framework



THE AUSTRALIAN STATE OF HARM REDUCTION

On International Harm Reduction Day in May 2024, AIVL hosted an online forum to talk about 'Harm Reduction' in Australia. As we move into an era of drug decriminalisation, peer-led services, drug checking, increasing criminal sanctions for vape smokers, and injectable opioid dependence treatment, we reflected on our past lessons and achievements, what is changing across the country, and how world events might affect us.

SUPPORT DON'T PUNISH

Support. Don't Punish. is a global grassroots campaign that calls for jurisdictions to implement drug policy that prioritises the health and wellbeing outcomes of people who use drugs and end cruel sanctions that target our community. AIVL hosted an online forum in June 2024 to discuss and platform some of the local and international services, systems, advocacy and policies that are working to advance the wellbeing, health and human rights of people who use drugs.



THE AUSTRALIAN STATE OF HARM REDUCTION

156 people attended

137 people attended

SUPPORT DON'T PUNISH

50 people attended

INTERNATIONAL DRUG USERS DAY

50 people attended

NATIONAL PEER SUMMIT



REPRESENTATION

**5 AIVL EVENTS
(IN-PERSON & ONLINE)**

10 RESEARCH PROJECTS

**16 CONFERENCE/FORUM
PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS**

33 REFERENCE/ADVISORY COMMITTEES

31 SUBMISSIONS AND 4 MEDIA ARTICLES



United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs

In March 2024, the AIVL Deputy CEO attended the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (UN CND) in Vienna with the support of the Commonwealth. The UN CND is the central drug policy making body within the United Nations System, it can have an impact on drug policy across the world.

The event ended on a high when for the first time ever the words 'Harm Reduction' were included in a US-sponsored resolution. Congratulations to our community members and partners who fought for years for an historical inclusion like this.

International Network on Health and Hepatitis in Substance Users

In October 2023, AIVL was proud to have three staff members and two board members represent us at the International Network on Hepatitis in Substance Users (INHSU) conference in Geneva. As part of the INPUD Community Day, we engaged with global peers to explore how countries are navigating blood borne viruses (BBVs), drug decriminalisation and legalisation, the successes, challenges, and realities on the ground, and we explored harm reduction approaches like drug consumption rooms in Greece, Switzerland, Portugal and Spain, and gained insights into critical work happening in the USA, Nigeria, the UK, and South America. It was an incredible opportunity to connect, learn, and bring back new perspectives to strengthen harm reduction in Australia.



WORLD HEPATITIS DAY

Australia's Drug User Organisations (DUOs) are driven by many leaders who experienced the impacts of the hepatitis C epidemic firsthand. These pioneers played a pivotal role in shaping the programs and services that continue to support our community today.

In July 2023, AIVL presented at Parliament House in Canberra for World Hepatitis Day on the commitment of the AIVL Network to hepatitis elimination and the crucial role of our peer-led harm reduction efforts to tackle current and future community health challenges, and ensure the wellbeing and health equity of our diverse community moving forward.



World Hepatitis Summit in Lisbon and visit of GAT

In April 2024, the AIVL CEO attended the World Hepatitis Summit in Lisbon, visited the GAT peer-based harm reduction drop-in centre, drug consumption room and safe smoking room for people who inject drugs, and contributed to the 2024 WHS Declaration. Our CEO's advocacy alongside allied partners ensured the inclusion of the below terms in the declaration. These terms were initially not included in the declaration.

- + Peer support and care
- + Harm reduction services
- + Community-led services
- + Stigma and discrimination
- + The inclusion of prisons as a setting for service delivery
- + The inclusion of 'meaningful involvement of affected communities'
- + The inclusion of 'domestic financing must be committed'

While in Lisbon, the AIVL CEO also visited the peer-based harm reduction organisation GAT (Group of Activists in Treatment) that provides services to PWUD, sex workers, and LGBTIQ+ people. Their centre in Mouraria offers impactful, evidence-based and holistic peer services and support for their community, including:

- + Peer-based drop-in centre with access to computers, clothes, food & social activities
- + Peer-led health promotion and harm reduction services, including Needle and Syringe Program & BBV Point of Care Testing
- + Peer-supervised drug consumption rooms for both injecting and smoking
- + On-site GP appointments, treatment & medication management
- + On-site social work & psychology appointments
- + Referrals to housing support, health clinics, hospitals & AOD treatment services
- + Community peer outreach program with needle collection



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

THIS YEAR WE REACHED 21,547 PEOPLE ACROSS ALL OUR SOCIAL CHANNELS

WE HAVE 6,242 PEOPLE FOLLOWING OUR SOCIAL MEDIA, AND E-LIST

495 PEOPLE ATTENDED OUR ONLINE AND IN-PERSON EVENTS



CAMPAIGNS

Support Don't Punish Campaign

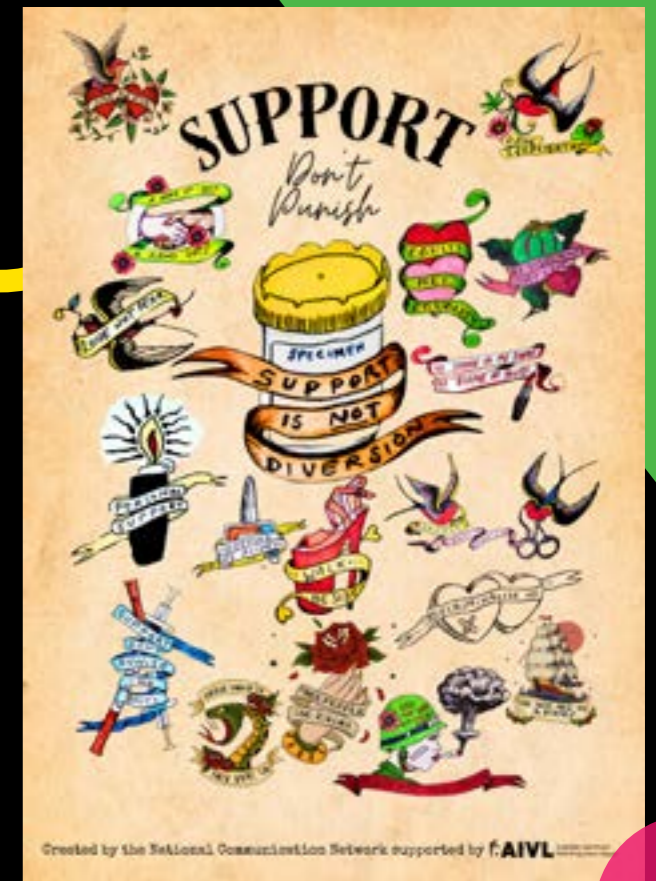
In June 2024, members of the National Communications Group supported by AIVL asked their community of people who use drugs: "What does support look like for you?" We gathered nearly 50 heartfelt responses, which were turned into illustrations by talented peer artists.

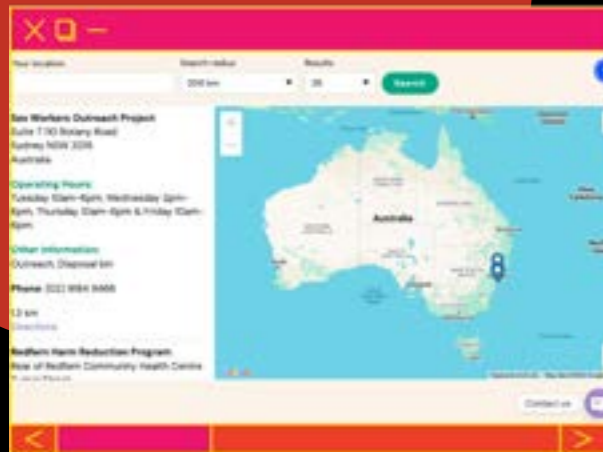
The group then adapted these illustrations into various formats so they could be widely distributed. These materials are now used to decorate Needle and Syringe Programs (NSPs), drop-in centres, and the hallways of government health departments and NGOs. The goal is to spread messages of love and support to PWUD across Australia and educate and encourage allies of people who use drugs.

WE CREATED:

- + Posters
- + Badges
- + Stickers
- + Social media tiles

All of these resources are available for free and can be downloaded from our website.





NEW AIVL WEBSITE

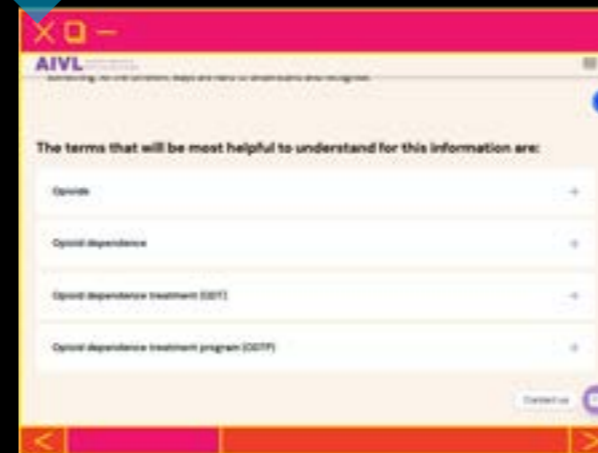
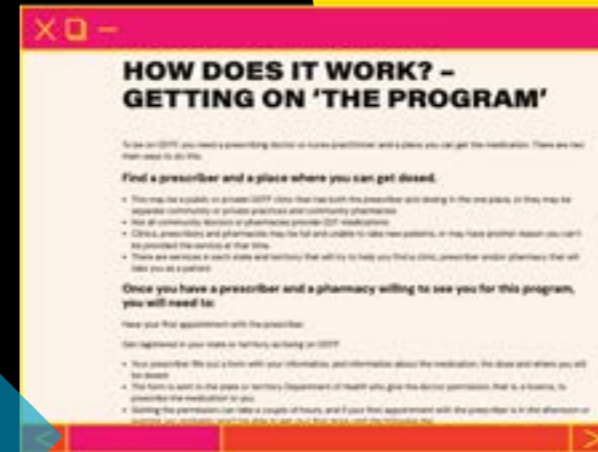
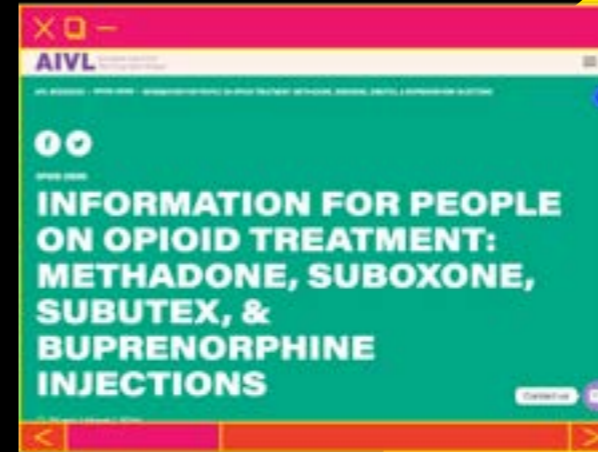
- + Translates into 11 languages
- + All web content meets WCAG standards
- + Includes multiple accessibility widgets including those to support dyslexia and ADHD
- + New online training platform

UPDATED AIVL NSP DIRECTORY

- + New interactive map format
- + 1,000 + listings updated
- + 40+ new listings

AIVL NEWSLETTERS

- + Our public newsletter, The Substance was re-launched in January 2024
- + Our members-only newsletter launched in January 2024
- + 12 newsletters sent



OPIOID TREATMENT: Methadone, Suboxone, & Buprenorphine Injections

In the 2023-24 financial period, the AIVL most popular resource was: Information For People On Opioid Treatment: Methadone, Suboxone, Subutex, & Buprenorphine Injections. This resource was created by people with personal experience on opioid treatment. It offers clear and practical information for individuals considering or currently on opioid treatment. By empowering community with detailed, experience-informed advice, this resource supports informed decision-making and helps reduce barriers to effective opioid dependence treatment. It has consistently been among our most accessed resources with 4,757 visits to the webpage within the reporting period, reflecting the pressing need for reliable, peer-led guidance in this area.

THE RESOURCE FEATURES:

- + **Medication Options:** A comparison of commonly prescribed ODT medications, their administration methods, and dosing schedules.
- + **Program Basics:** An overview of how to find a suitable prescriber and dispensing pharmacy or clinic, plus guidance on the steps needed to start treatment.
- + **Service Types:** Explanations of public, private, and community-based ODT services across different Australian states and territories, highlighting access challenges and potential variations in care.
- + **Reasons for Treatment:** Insights into why people choose ODT—such as managing withdrawal symptoms, reducing drug-related risks, or stabilising day-to-day life.
- + **Key Considerations:** Practical tips for deciding which medication might work best, understanding legal and cost factors, and knowing where to seek further support.
- + **Local Support Options:** Contact information for state and territory-based organisations that can offer practical support in accessing or considering ODT.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Tasmanian Users Health and Support League (TUHSL)

TUHSL is Tasmania's peer-based Drug User Organisation (DUO), advancing the dignity, health and human rights of all Tasmanians who use and inject drugs. TUHSL's work focuses on preventing the transmission of Blood Borne Viruses such as HIV, hepatitis B and C and Sexually Transmitted Infections. They also challenge stigma and discrimination and advocate for drug law reform.

IN THE 2023-24 FINANCIAL YEAR AIVL HAS BUILT THE CAPACITY OF TUHSL BY PROVIDING:

- + **Foundational Support:** Guided TUHSL's re-establishment and provided governance, strategic planning, and mentoring through direct involvement on the board.
- + **In-Kind Contributions:** Allocated staff time, IT resources, and equipment to support TUHSL operations.
- + **Professional Development:** Facilitated mentoring, training, and leadership opportunities for TUHSL Directors.
- + **Stakeholder Connections:** Established partnerships with key researchers and organisations to support TUHSL's initiatives.
- + **Peer Workforce Support:** Enabled TUHSL's participation in the National Peer Workforce Framework, ensuring meaningful contribution and input.

The AIVL Network and the national community of people who use drugs (PWUD) benefit from the thriving operation of a DUO in Tasmania. We are proud of TUHSL's achievements over the 2023-24 financial period and will support them on their continuing journey to advance the dignity, health and human rights of their community.



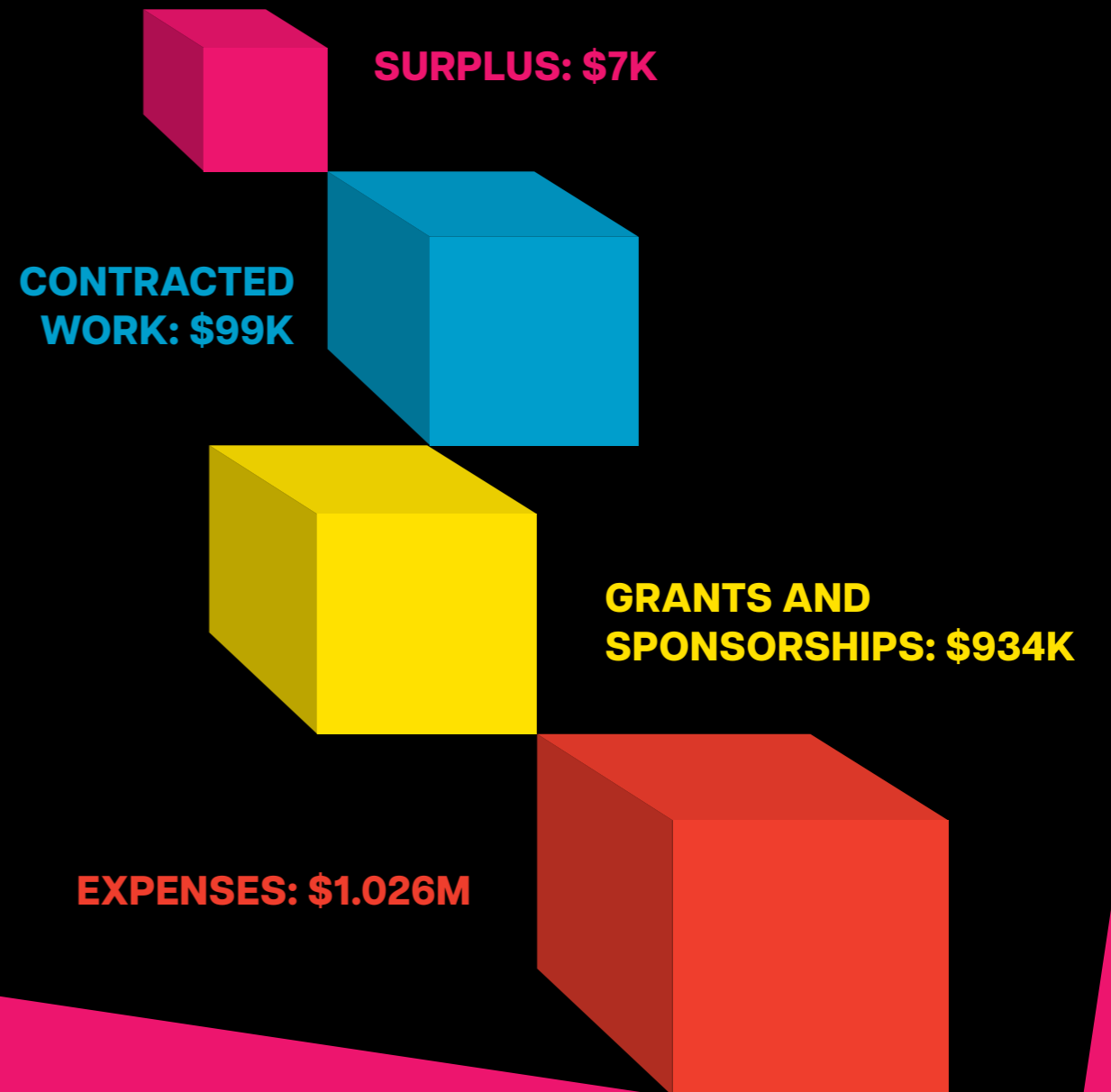
FINANCIAL POSITION

PROFIT & LOSS

**TOTAL
EQUITY:
\$584,687**

**TOTAL
ASSETS:
\$1,093,612**

**TOTAL
LIABILITIES:
\$508,925**



The graphic features a large, stylized white arrow pointing upwards and to the right, set against a black background. The arrow's shaft is composed of a series of white circles of varying sizes, creating a sense of motion. A large, vibrant pink circle is positioned on the right side, partially overlapping the arrow. A red semi-circle is at the bottom left. The text 'ANNUAL REPORT' is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font, following the curve of the arrow's path. The year '2023-24' is also written in white, following the curve of the arrow's tail. The background is divided into sections of blue, pink, and red by diagonal white lines.

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2023-24

[FACEBOOK](#)

[BLUESKY](#)

[INSTAGRAM](#)

[LINKEDIN](#)

[X \(TWITTER\)](#)

[TIKTOK](#)

INFO@AIVL.ORG.AU

WWW.AIVL.ORG.AU