



# ANNUAL REPORT



2024-25



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

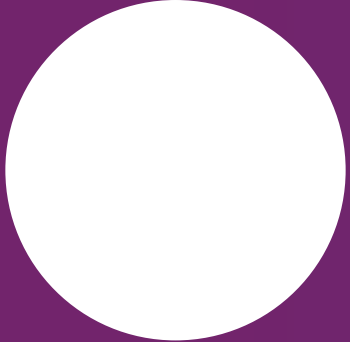
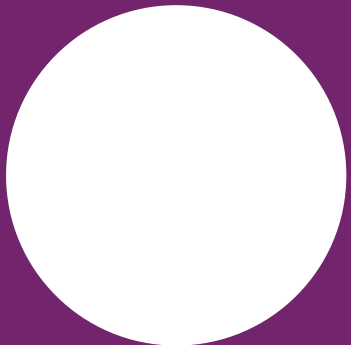

AIVL acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live and work. We pay our profound respect to Elders past and present. We celebrate the stories, culture, wisdom and traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and thank Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 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. Always was, and always will be Aboriginal land.

## **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.



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## ABOUT AIVL

AIVL, the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League, is the national peer-led peak organisation representing our network of peer-based harm reduction programs and Drug User Organisations.

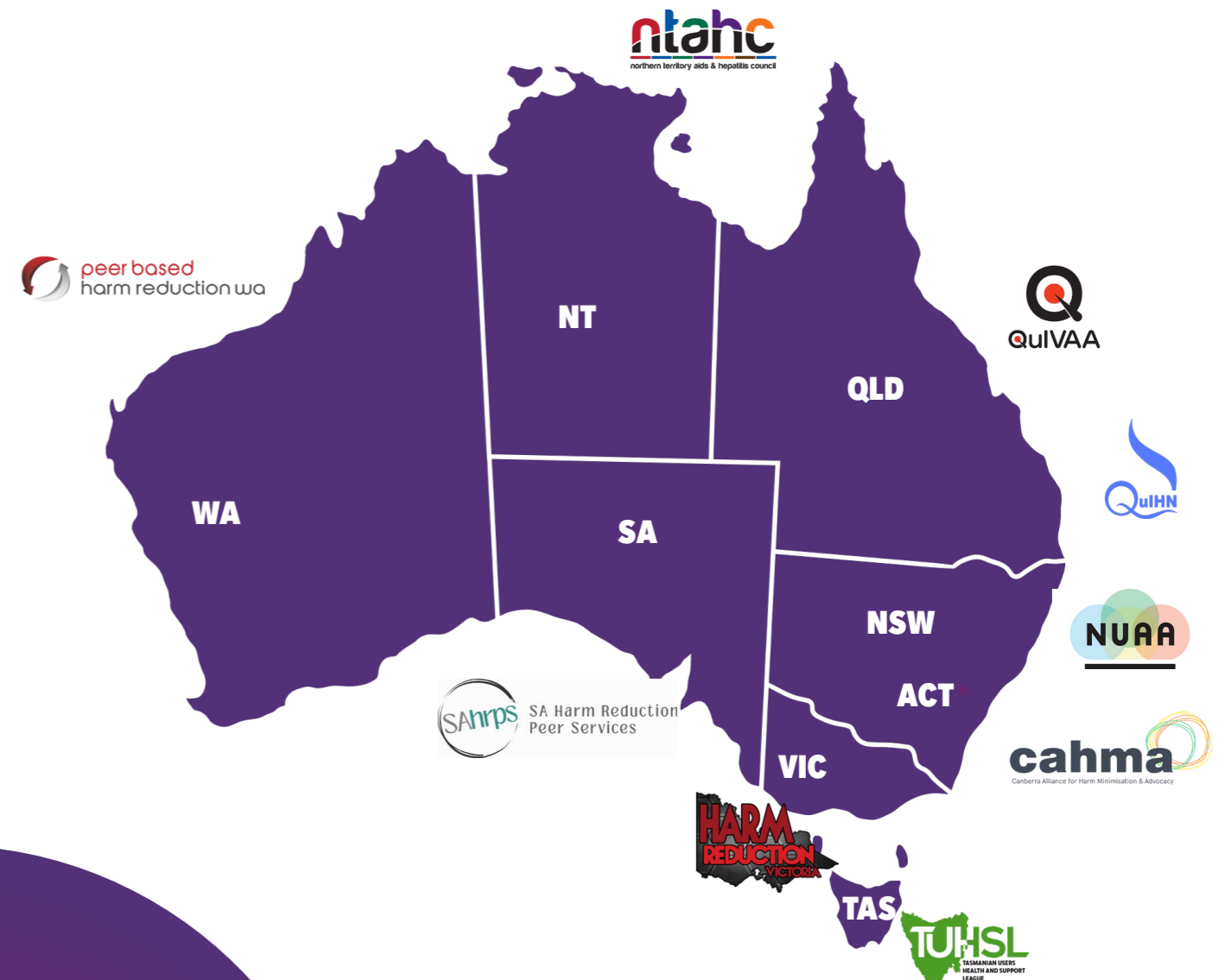
## OUR VISION:

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.

## OUR MISSION:

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

## OUR MEMBER ORGANISATIONS



## OUR AFFILIATE MEMBERS



# OUR BOARD

## CHRIS GOUGH



President He/Him

## LEAH McLEOD



Vice President She/Her

## SIONE CRAWFORD



Treasurer He/Him

## JANE DICKA



Secretary She/Her

## ESHA LEYDEN



Member Liaison Officer She/Her

## PAUL DESSAUER



Committee Member He/Him

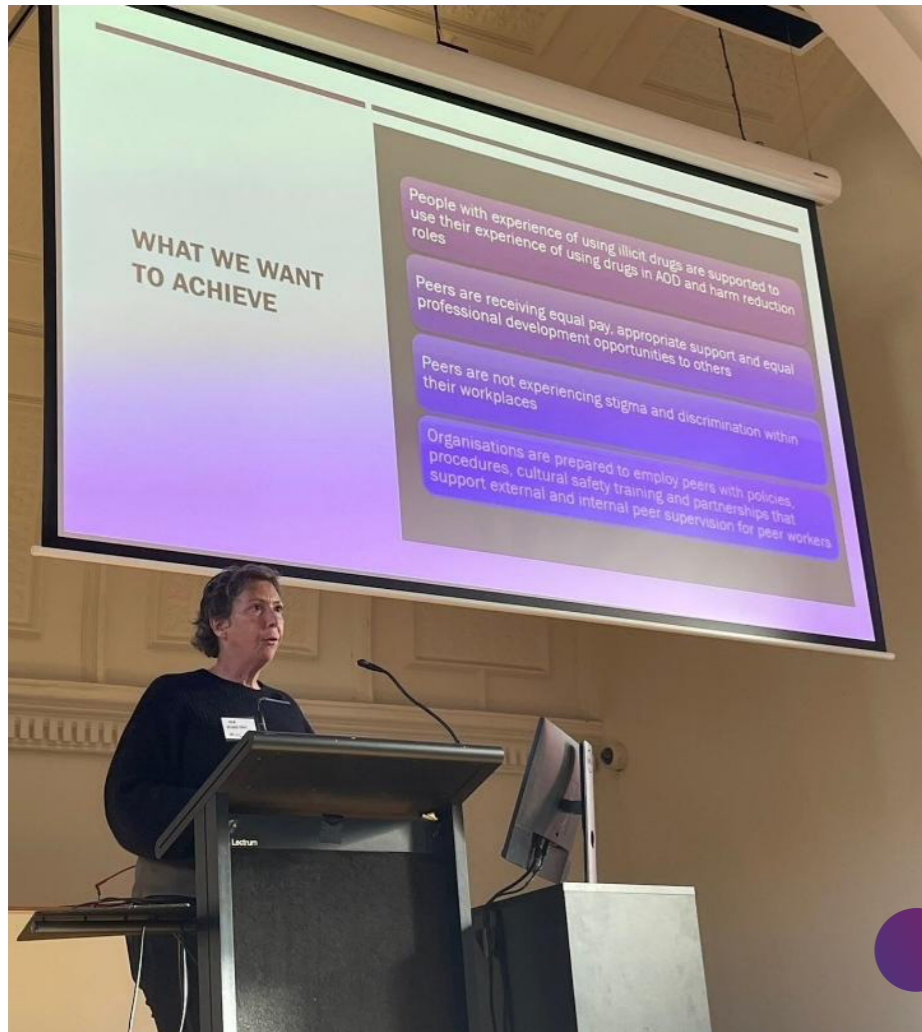
## REPRESENTATION, ADVOCACY AND ADVISORY

## AMPLIFYING THE VOICE OF OUR COMMUNITY NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

This year, AIVL has worked to amplify the voices of our community on a national and international stage. Presenting at conferences, forums and to reference and advisory committees. We see this high-level work as essential to shaping the systems that our members and community tell us most affect the health and wellbeing of people who use drugs. As a peer-led peak organisation, we are uniquely positioned to bring lived-living experience to the forefront, sharing stories and real-world insights alongside a robust evidence base to highlight how specific issues impact our community.

### For the 2024-25 financial year, these issues included:

-  Communication principles that support people who use drugs
-  Culturally and linguistically diverse people who use drugs
-  Drug policy and law reform
-  Ethical research partnerships
-  Harm reduction, including its application within prison services and custodial policy
-  Healthcare for ageing people who use drugs
-  Hepatitis C prevention, testing and treatment for people who inject drugs
-  HIV prevention, testing and treatment for people who inject drugs
-  Narcofeminism and gender responsive policy for people who use drugs
-  Opioid dependence treatment program (ODTP) access
-  Peer workforce development
-  Reducing stigma and discrimination
-  STI prevention, testing and treatment for people who use drugs
-  The global abolition of the death penalty



Ele Morrison, AIVL Deputy CEO, presenting at the opening plenary session of the VAADA Conference on the National Peer Workforce Framework on Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung Country (Melbourne).



Emily Ebdon, AIVL Campaigns and Capacity Lead, and Leah McLeod, AIVL Vice President and INPUD Communications Specialist, presenting at the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) Forum on a Narcofeminism panel led by INPUD in Bangkok, Thailand.



Ele Morrison, AIVL Deputy CEO, presenting on effective community engagement of people who use drugs at the Viral Hepatitis Conference on Larrakia Country (Darwin).



Emily Ebdon, AIVL Campaigns and Capacity Lead, presenting at the NUAA Peers and Consumers Forums alongside Georgina and Trish, on Narcofeminism, womanhood, gender and drugs in Gadigal Country (Sydney). Photo from NUAA.



Ele Morrison, AIVL Deputy CEO, chairing a session on ageing among people who use drugs at the Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD) conference on Ngunnawal Country (Canberra). Also featuring AIVL member organisation representatives: Sarah of QuIVAA, Lucy of NUAA, Peter of CAHMA, David of CAHMA, Carol of SAhrps and Jane of HR Vic.



John G, AIVL CEO, chairing a panel on peer workforce development and lessons learned in creating supportive policies, programs and services led by people with lived-living experience of illicit drug use, featuring AIVL member org representatives: Nadia of HR Vic, Niki of QuHn, Alice of NUAA, Peta of PBHR WA, and Natasha of CAHMA, at the APSAD conference on Ngunnawal Country (Canberra).



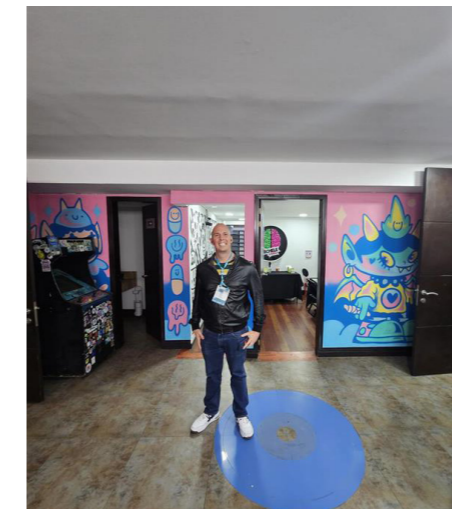
Ele Morrison, AIVL Deputy CEO participating in a panel as a member of the Australian Civil Society Group on the importance of having community representatives on the Australian delegation to the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at the APSAD conference on Ngunnawal Country (Canberra).



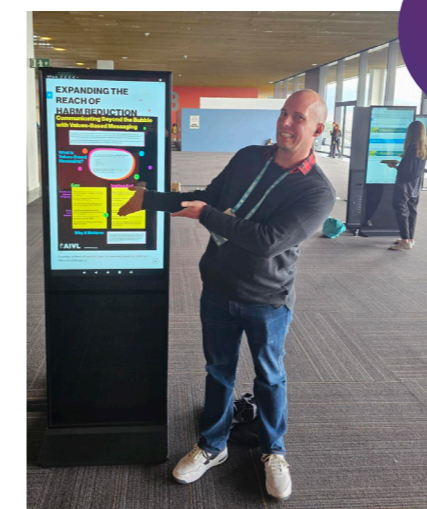
Ele Morrison, AIVL Deputy CEO, presenting at the Health Equity Matters Leadership Forum on Yuggera and Turrbal Country (Brisbane).



John G, AIVL CEO, participating with international colleagues including Aditia Taslim, INPUD Advocacy Officer, at the HIV Heart of Stigma Forum convened by the International AIDS Society in Nairobi, Kenya. Photo by IAS.



Adrian Goringe, AIVL Inclusion and Innovation Lead, at Échele Cabeza's Drop in Centre and Drug Checking Service, toured as part of the Harm Reduction International Conference in Bacatá (Bogotá), Colombia.



Adrian Goringe, AIVL Inclusion and Innovation Lead, with our poster presentation on expanding the reach of harm reduction using values based messaging, at the Harm Reduction International conference in Bacatá (Bogotá), Colombia.

# RESOURCES

## NATIONAL PEER WORKFORCE FRAMEWORK

AIVL, in partnership with the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA), and in collaboration with the AIVL Network of Drug User Organisations and harm reduction programs, has been developing a practical national framework for employing people with lived-living experience of using drugs.

Within this reporting period, we released a Guiding Principles document. The guiding principles underpin the ethical, safe, respectful employment of peer workers for end users of the framework. It outlines the forthcoming contents of the finalised framework, what peer workers do and principles that employees of peer workers should strive to understand, support, promote and demonstrate.

The Guiding Principles also came from significant work conducted during this time period, including:

- Planning Committee meetings held every 6 weeks.
- Steering Committee meetings held every 2 months.

The Planning and Steering Committees both included at least one person from each of AIVL's state and territory member organisations, and a key team member of NCETA and the AADC.

In 2024-25, AIVL was also involved in conducting 23 key stakeholder interviews in partnership with NCETA.

The stakeholder interviews were held with people from the national level and each state and territory. Participants represented:

- National peak BBV organisations with experience in peer work (including the Scarlet Alliance, the National Association of People with HIV Australia (NAPWHA) and Health Equity Matters.
- State and territory mental health and AOD organisations.
- State and territory government AOD and harm reduction representatives.
- Non-government organisations with experience in harm reduction and AOD work.



## EXPERIENCE MATTERS

Experience Matters is a harm reduction storytelling series using photography, short films, and podcasts to explore three key priority areas:

- Emerging synthetic drugs and changing drug trends;
- The vital role and impact of Drug User Organisations in Australia; and
- Ethical collaborations between Drug User Organisations and sector partners.

All three episodes of the Experience Matters podcast are on Spotify. The short films can be found on Youtube, and the photo series has been shared across AIVL's social media channels. You can also find all the content on the AIVL Website under Resources.



### SOME OF THE FACES BEHIND THE PODCAST:



Ele, AIVL Deputy CEO



Dr Danielle Russell, Kirby Institute



Felicity, Harm Reduction Activist



Rochelle, NUAH Harm Reduction Services Manager



Peter Higgs, Burnet Institute Associate Professor



Dr Jack Freestone, NCCRED Post Doctoral Research Fellow



Pudghey, Community Member

**MOMENTS FROM THE SHORT FILMS:**



**PORTRAIT SERIES:**

As part of the Experience Matters project, we asked participants who filmed with us on Kurna Country (Adelaide) at the AIVL Health and Human Rights Summit 2024: "Why does experience matter?" We invited them to write their answers by hand, and we placed these handwritten reflections over their portraits.

Shared experiences foster community, and community keeps us safe, in a world with so much discrimination.

lizzy





Because - people c̄ living  
experience have currently  
/ relevancy of experience,  
live connection to community  
and we're risking our  
safety by being 'out' - in  
the name of peer-support,  
advocacy and harm reduction  
- as we're still breaking the  
law every day as a criminal  
population.  
we're so valuable - and need  
protection. DECRIM NOW!



Experience matters because all human lives are the culmination of experiences. My experiences good, bad and everything in between empower me to connect authentically so that those who aren't treated as humans are seen as humans

Erica



OBVIOUSLY.....

EXPERIENCE MATTERS

BECAUSE WITHOUT IT

WHAT DO YOU

REALLY KNOW...

Joel.



*Experience matters because  
it's how we make connections,  
build trust and empower people.*

*Fiona*



“It comes at the  
cost of yourself;  
Lived-Living experience  
is a profound periscope  
into someone's 'being'.  
Through that experience  
we can then offer  
Safety, solidarity, and Empowerment  
to others.”

---



# EXPERIENCES MATTER

MORE & MORE for me  
over time as I  
realize how little  
Time we really have  
to use our experience  
& have more  
experiences

Stone

MY EXPERIENCES  
TEACHES ME  
EVERYDAY THAT  
I DO NOT HAVE  
THE ANSWERS AND  
I AM LEARNING  
EVERY DAY

---

Charles



Emma K.

~~B~~ How can anyone  
have genuine understanding  
without first having  
experience of the matter?



Because We Are  
Living It.

Nikkas



Because my story  
might save someone

- Edie



living knowledge  
is wisdom  
Kirsten

# METHAMPHETAMINE & HIGH FUN HARM REDUCTION PROJECT



This reporting period, AIVL rolled out a national trial of 1,000 free high fun/sexualised drug use harm reduction packs. The packs were distributed through Drug User Organisations, Peer-led NSPs, LGBTIQ+ Health Organisations, and Sex Worker Organisations.

The High Fun Harm Reduction packs were designed to reduce BBV and STI transmission for people engaging in sexualised drug use. The primary drugs used in this context by the key population include Methamphetamine, GHB, Cocaine, MDMA and Ketamine. Therefore, two packs were developed, one with a focus on injecting drug use and the other for snorting, smoking, ingesting or boofing.

## THE INJECTING PACK INCLUDED:

1ml fits, stericups, water vials, prep pads and alcohol swabs, disinfectant wipes, chewing gum, condoms and lube, sex toy cleaning guide, electrolyte replacement powder and surgical gloves.



## THE SNORTING, SMOKING, INGESTING OR BOOFING PACK INCLUDED:

3ml barrel with slip tip, rack n roll card, denture cleaning tablet, cotton bud, disinfectant wipes, chewing gum, condoms and lube, sex toy cleaning guide, electrolyte replacement powder and surgical gloves.

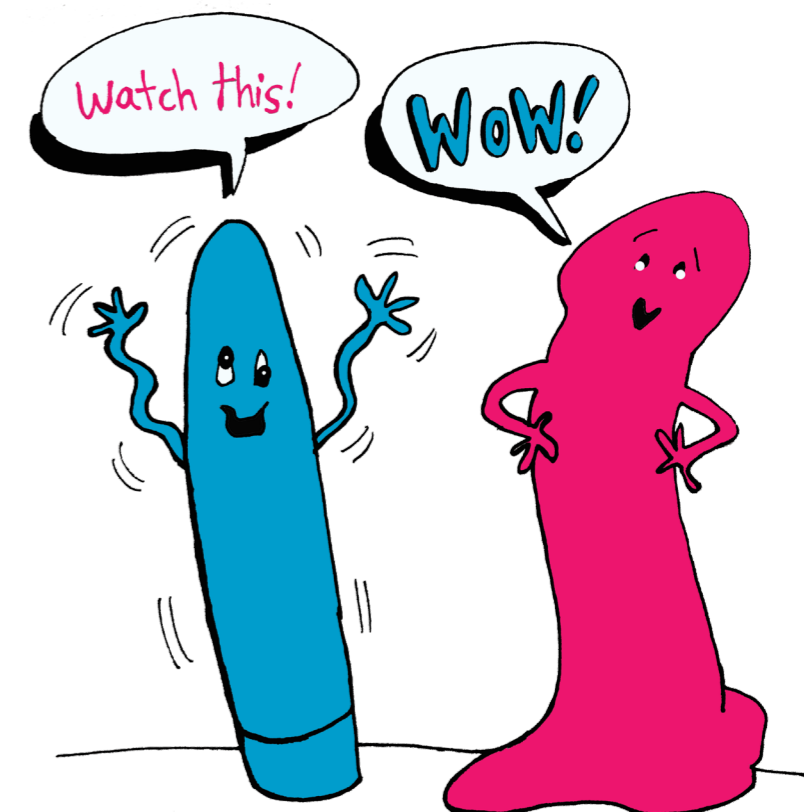
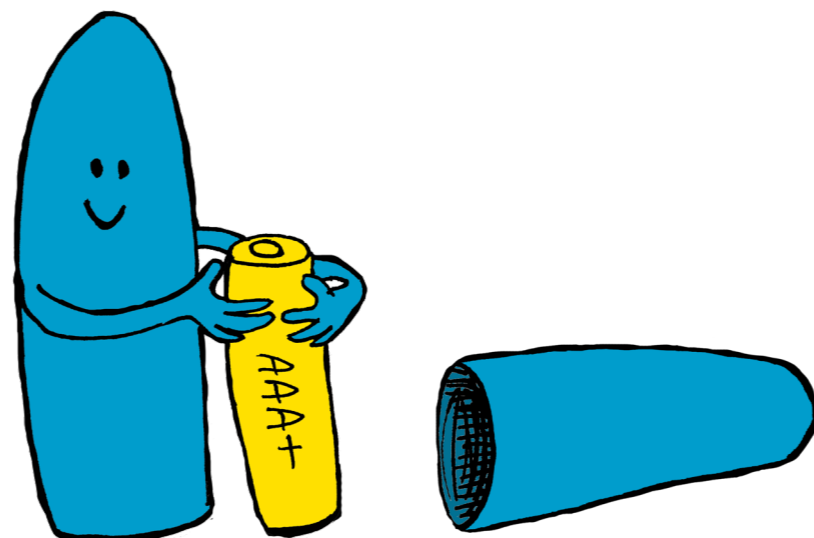


Video resources were developed to explain the harm reduction purpose of each item, why it was included, how it supports safer use, and guidance on how to use it effectively.

This project was developed by AIVL and our member organisations:



In association with the AIVL Methamphetamine & Chemsex Harm Reduction Working Group:



## THE PACKS WERE DISTRIBUTED BY:

ACT: CAHMA, Meridian ACT

NSW: ACON (Sydney & Lismore), Kirketon Road Centre (Crown Street NSP Location, formerly NUAA's) and SWOP NSW (Sydney & Outreach)

NT: All NTAHC Locations (Darwin, Katherine, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Nhulunbuy, Palmerston)

QLD: QuIHN (Bowen Hills, Burleigh, Sunshine Coast, Townsville), Respect Inc QLD (Brisbane & Outreach)

SA: SARhps (Hackney & other locations) SAMESH, SIN

VIC: Harm Reduction Victoria, Vixen

WA: Peer Based Harm Reduction WA (Perth & Bunbury), WAAC (Perth & Fremantle, M Clinic & Mobile outreach)

TAS: TUHSL (Outreach)

An evaluation of the trial is currently underway with a focus on assessing its outcomes and impact. This process will help inform decisions about the initiative's future continuation and potential expansion. A massive thank you to all participants for generously sharing their time, knowledge, and peer expertise. Their contributions were central to the development and distribution of these packs.

# HEALTH & HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMIT

**AIVL** Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League

## HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMIT

ADVANCING THE WELLBEING OF PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS

Health and human rights are inseparable. True well-being requires prioritising bodily autonomy and equity in health for all.

HUMAN RIGHTS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR MENTAL HEALTH. WE INTERNALISE SO MUCH OF THE NEGATIVITY IN THIS WORLD. EVERYONE DESERVES TO FEEL OKAY ABOUT BEING THEMSELVES.

MEDIA OUTLETS HAVE BLOOD ON THEIR HANDS.

TO BE TRUSTED TO KNOW WHAT IS BEST FOR ME.

ADEQUATE PAIN RELIEF IN HOSPICE  
AGED CARE FOR PWUD

HEALTH & HUMAN RIGHTS are not meant for the privileged  
only LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

HAND UP! NOT HAND OUTS!

\* ABILITY TO BE HONEST W/ HEALTH CARE PROVIDER WITHOUT PUNISHMENT!

Quality of life, it's not just being alive, but thriving and having a mod of comfort and security. That allows us to breath and grow. Kaka grape girl

What does health and human rights mean to you?

The freedom to be myself,  
The pride to love myself,  
The strength to teach our community ♡.xx

That health + human rights isn't seen as a fundamental right especially for PWUD, is a grim reminder that society's worst addiction is its own prejudices.

PEOPLE DIE WITHOUT HEALTHCARE BECAUSE MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS HAVE MADE THEM FEEL LIKE THEY DON'T DESERVE TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY.

The right to health is a fundamental Human Right. We all deserve to be treated with dignity, to have our agency and autonomy respected, and to have equitable opportunity.

ACCEPTANCE  
FREEDOM  
ONE LOVE

LIVING WITHOUT FEAR

- FEAR OF CRIMINALITY
- FEAR OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION
- FEAR OF LOSING/CHILD STEALING
- FEAR OF PREVENTABLE ILLNESS
- FEAR OF DEATH

HEALTH HOUSING/ SHELTER FINANCES/ FOOD FAMILY/ RELATIONSHIPS = WHOLISTIC WELLBEING

Basic or health & wellbeing could be an option i.e. a RIGHT (& people could claim their RIGHTS)

In December 2024, AIVL convened the Health and Human Rights Summit on Kurna Country (Adelaide) with the theme of advancing the wellbeing of people who use drugs. This three-day Summit was the first time AIVL attempted this format, and it was a great success. The first day was primarily AIVL Staff, Delegates, and Board members, as well as Network Member and Affiliate Member Executives. We used this time to showcase AIVL's work over the last 12 months, host our AGM and strategically plan for the future as a network.

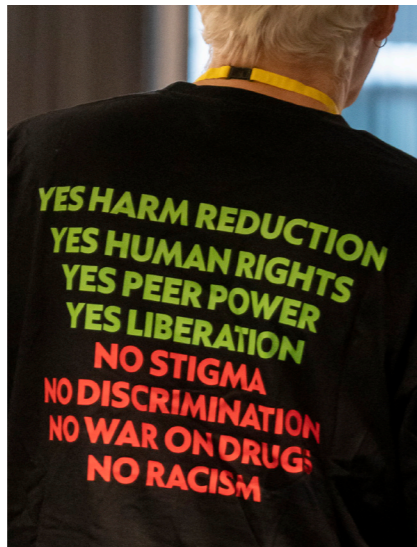
On the second day, we invited some established partners and allies to join us with presentations, workshops and panel discussions focused on the health and human rights of people who use drugs. The third day was a ticketed event, open to all, and welcoming new stakeholders and collaborators into the space to share our collective learnings and conclusions from the previous two days, while also offering sessions on key issues affecting the communities of people who use drugs that require solidarity from the sector to progress.

The AIVL Health and Human Rights Summit would not have been such a success without the support of our local member organisation, the South Australian Harm Reduction Peer Services (SAhrps), who provided logistical and strategic support and operated an on-site peer-led NSP for the duration of the event. SAhrps also announced its name change at the Summit, transitioning from the former Hepatitis SA program - NSP Peer Projects. The rebrand to SAhrps reflects the program's broader scope and recognises that it delivers far more than needle and syringe program (NSP) services alone. Including Harm Reduction in the name highlights the approach to service provision, and emphasises the type, or category, of peers participating in SAhrps. SAhrps peers are Harm Reduction Peers.



A massive thank you to our sponsors, without whom the Summit would not be possible. We are so grateful to have built authentic and trusted relationships with our sponsors, which enable us to work towards our goals in partnership.





**QUOTES FROM ATTENDEES:**

*"The Summit is probably one of the most defining and impactful positive moments of my life, both professionally and personally."*

*"Greatly strengthened my knowledge and connections with the community."*

*"Really positive, warm, and reaffirming."*

*"My experience at the Summit was overwhelmingly positive. I received more support and encouragement and positive feedback than I anticipated. Which showed me that I actually do know my stuff, which essentially decreased my imposter syndrome and internally validated my place in the PWUD space."*

*"Really appreciate the balance of peer presentations to researchers and politicians."*

*"Best AIVL event I have attended!"*

*"Absolutely gold standard from the very first email communication."*

*"Fantastic to connect to so many friendly people, and the atmosphere was great."*



**80**

attendees

**70%**

of attendees identify as peers/people with lived-living experience of drug use

**34**

organisations

**12**

presentations

**1,140**

visits to the summit webpage

**6**

states

**3**

workshops

**2**

territories

**3**

panels

**24**

tickets sold for day 3

**4**

countries represented

**20**

speakers and facilitators

**2,752**

views of post conference film

## INAUGURAL AIVL AWARDS

In December 2024, AIVL launched the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug User League (AIVL) Network Awards at the AIVL Health and Human Rights Summit. The awards were an opportunity to celebrate the talent of our peer workforce and their vital contributions to advancing harm reduction practices and principles through their lived-living experience and expertise, benefiting the communities of people who use drugs. The naming of these awards was also a special opportunity to honour and celebrate the legacy of peer leaders within the drug user movement, that we have unfortunately lost along the way.

We began with four award categories open for public nomination, and two special recognition awards selected by the judging panel.



### THE AWARD CATEGORIES OPEN FOR NOMINATION WERE:

#### The Jenny Kelsall Lifetime Achievement Award

Jenny Kelsall was a dedicated community leader who, before her passing, was the Executive Officer of Harm Reduction Victoria. Prior to this Jenny demonstrated to the harm reduction sector that people who use drugs are integral and necessary in our responses, working in world leading programs and organisations including the Centre for Harm Reduction and Turning Point. She was a generous and caring friend, colleague and mentor to many, as well as a fierce advocate for our community: an unapologetic woman who injected drugs, cared for a family, contributed to the arts, and worked to improve the lives of people who use drugs. Jenny left a legacy of leadership, peer-based research and education initiatives across Australia and Asia in the areas of HIV, viral hepatitis & injecting drug use spanning more than three decades.

#### The Jude Byrne Peer Advocate of the Year Award

Jude Byrne was a mighty and fearless advocate in the Australian and International Drug User Movement. In Australia, Jude was present throughout the harm reduction and hepatitis C research and advocacy space. Jude held various positions in Australian Drug User Organisations, including AIVL. Her influence was also felt internationally. Her unapologetic advocacy impacted people who inject drugs, people living with hepatitis C, people in prison, people on opioid dependence treatment and older people who use drugs. Jude was a founding member of the International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD) and served as its first President. She was a mentor to many people who use drugs throughout the world and was admired for her skills driving committees and social change, fiercely representing the community and elevating the voice of people who use drugs in multiple spaces including policy, research, health and human rights.

#### Peer Worker of the Year and Harm Reduction Program of the Year

There were also special recognition awards: the Peer Artist Recognition Award and the Peer Researcher Recognition Award.



## OUR AWARD WINNERS



**The Jenny Kelsall Lifetime Achievement Award**  
Jane Dicka  
(Harm Reduction Victoria)



**The Jude Byrne Peer Advocate of the Year Award**  
Peta Gava  
(Peer Based Harm Reduction WA)



**The Peer Worker of the Year Award**  
Margaret Randle  
(SA Harm Reduction Peer Services)



**The Peer Researcher Recognition Award**  
Tim Piatkowski  
(QuIVAA)



**The Harm Reduction Program of the Year Award**  
CheQpoint  
(QuIHN & QuIVAA)



**The Peer Artist Recognition Award**  
Emily Ebdon  
(Tasmanian Users Health and Support League)

The overwhelming support and positive feedback for these awards affirmed their significance, and they will now be established as an annual event in the AIVL calendar. These awards would not have been possible without the support of our network and our partner Gilead, who we deeply appreciate.



# RESEARCH

As a priority population across health and social care, people who use drugs are among the most frequently researched communities. Ethical research partnerships and meaningful participation require substantial resourcing for peer leadership to ensure that research activities deliver tangible benefits to the community. Research must not cause harm to a population that is already marginalised and subject to significant and persistent stigma and discrimination. When people who use drugs share their personal information and experiences for research purposes, these contributions must be used to advance their health and wellbeing, rather than reinforce stigma or create additional barriers to care. To coordinate national research projects, requests and partnerships, AIVL has a Research Lead, Jess Doumany. Jess works collaboratively with the AIVL Network to implement the AIVL National Research Strategy, a pioneering initiative aimed at achieving peer-led research goals over a five-year period. The strategy focuses on three core priorities: embedding peer leadership and governance, building research capacity, capability, and confidence, and enhancing data quality and sovereignty. The AIVL Research Strategy will enable AIVL and its member organisations to provide leadership and expertise to meet the priorities of our community in Australian research.

A major achievement in 2024/25 was the formation of a National Research Committee made up of peers from each of our member organisations in Australia. The Research Committee meets regularly and is facilitated by AIVL. It provides advice and expertise on the development of national research about our communities of people who use drugs. In turn, AIVL is developing capacity among its members and their organisations, while fostering an inclusive and collaborative research agenda based on shared values and understanding of research priorities, principles and expectations for engagement between the AIVL Network and research at the national level.

AIVL also conducted peer-led research with people who use drugs and peer-based Drug User Organisations who provided services during the COVID-19 pandemic. The AIVL Member Organisations and people who use drugs who used their services were surveyed to look at their positive and negative experiences and their ideas for what is needed in future. This research forms the basis for an upcoming report on how to prepare for and prevent negative outcomes for people who use drugs if there are future pandemics or other adverse events.

In addition to forwarding a Research Strategy and contributory guidelines for people who use drugs, AIVL was involved in many research-related committees and projects, including:

- Hepatitis Bump-C study (Kirby Institute) - looking at the experience and preferences for hepatitis C testing and treatment among women with recent experience of having children.
- Stigma Indicators Project (CSRH) - looking at the experience of stigma at health services among people who inject drugs.
- National Hepatitis C in prison group

All AIVL staff continue to play important roles in research, such as: participation in governance committees, authorship, facilitation of group and individual interviews and in one-off advisory capacities. We are grateful to collaborate with a wide range of research partners and deeply value these relationships.



# CAMPAIGNS

## ART, ADVOCACY, ACTION! REIMAGINING 'SUPPORT' FOR PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS

In 2025, The National Communication Network collaborated on a peer-led campaign to mark Support. Don't Punish on 26 June 2025. The National Communication Network is a team of communication experts from The AIVL Network of Australian Drug User Organisations and Harm Reduction Programs.

We asked our communities, "How would your life change if people who used drugs weren't punished?" We received over 70 heartfelt responses, and our talented peer artist and Campaign and Capacity Building Lead, Emily Ebdon, turned these insights into impactful illustrations focused on concepts including prevention of blood borne virus transmissions, addressing stigma and discrimination and empowering harm reduction responses. A huge thank you to all the members of our community who shared their thoughts, feelings, and opinions in response to the question.

AIVL created A3 posters and sticker sheets featuring the illustrations, which were distributed to all participating network members. We also provided printable A4 posters, stickers, and badge templates so that allied organisations and partners could join the campaign, celebrate the artwork, and help share the messages from our community.



## EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



## DIGITAL EDUCATION WEBINARS

Throughout the reporting period, AIVL introduced a webinar series named 'You Can't Say That' based on misinformed perceptions about our community of people who use drugs. The two webinars in this series were peer expert panel discussions about parenting as a person who uses drugs, and the inclusion of people who use drugs in the local and global feminist movement. These webinars were incredibly well attended and well-received.

We also held webinars to mark days of significance in our community's calendar, World Hepatitis Day, International Overdose Awareness Day, and International Harm Reduction Day.

In addition, we held two specialist webinars this financial year, including a training session in October 2024 for health and harm reduction workers in understanding and responding to people who use performance and image enhancing drugs (PIED), presented by QuIVAA's Dr Tim Piatkowski and Sonya Weith.

In June 2025, we invited Dr Kate Sear, Dr Sean Mulcahy and Prof Carla Treloar to present on their work establishing a sound legal basis for the claim that drug-use stigma is unlawful, which could also compel legal authorities, including courts and legislatures, to move away from the criminalisation and carceralisation of drug use.

**7**  
webinars delivered

**1,367**  
people attended  
from

**350+**  
organisations

**1,128**  
views of webinar  
recordings

**YOU CAN'T SAY THAT**  
A webinar series by AIVL

Women & Non-binary Who Use Drugs SHOULD Be Included in Feminism

3pm-4:30pm AEST  
THURSDAY 10<sup>th</sup> April

REGISTER NOW!

AIVL Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League

*Understanding and Responding to People Who Use Performance and Image Enhancing Drugs:*  
An online training webinar for health and harm reduction workers

An increasing number of individuals who use steroids and other performance and image enhancing drugs (PIEDs) are accessing Needle and Syringe Programs for injecting equipment. Learn more about PIEDs and how to effectively support those who use them.

Topics  
Topics include defining PIEDs, understanding who uses PIEDs and why, exploring how people use PIEDs, recommending appropriate equipment for PIED use, examining women and PIED use, and providing harm reduction and health enhancement information for PIED users.

Speakers  
Join Dr. Tim, a PIEDs expert and QuIVAA Board Member, along with Sonya Weith, also from QuIVAA.

Wed Oct 16 12.30-1.30pm AEST  
Register Here [bit.ly/4eV5aYa](https://bit.ly/4eV5aYa)

AIVL Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League

**YOU CAN'T SAY THAT**  
A webinar series by AIVL

People Who Use Drugs Make EXCELLENT PARENTS

12pm-1:30pm AEST  
THURSDAY 20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY

REGISTER NOW!

AIVL Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League

INTERNATIONAL HARM REDUCTION WEBINAR

Wednesday May 14<sup>th</sup>  
12:00pm - 1:30pm AEST

REGISTER NOW!

**OUR WEBINAR POSTERS**

World Hepatitis Day Webinar

30<sup>th</sup> July  
1pm-2:30pm AEST

REGISTER NOW!

KEEPING THE FLAME

AIVL Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League

Is Drug Use Stigma a Form of TORTURE

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June  
12pm-1pm AEST

REGISTER NOW!

KEEPING US ALIVE

Webinar Friday Aug 30  
12.30-1.30pm AEST

Register Now

This Overdose Awareness day, we explore the barriers and successes in naloxone provision, with insights from Australia and Portugal's community distribution efforts.

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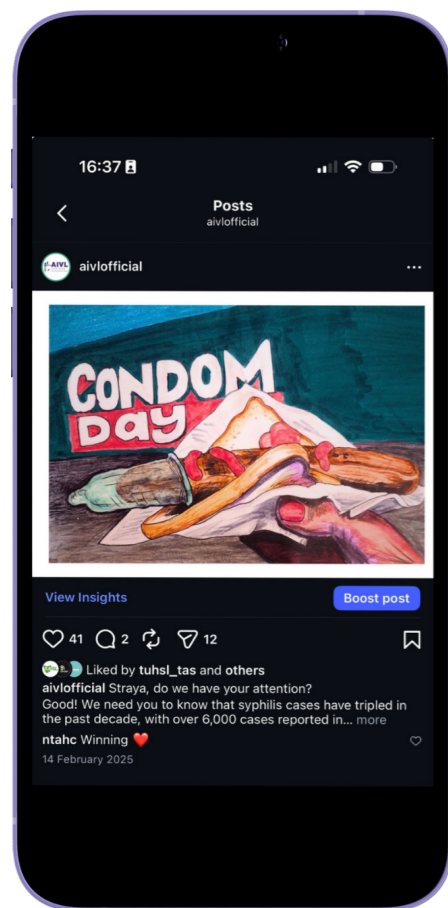
## ON-DEMAND COURSES

With the launch of a second hepatitis C online training course for the health and harm reduction workforce, the AIVL free, on-demand training platform is growing and on track to become a key resource of peer-led, evidence-based education for the health and harm reduction workforce in Australia. Additional courses are currently being finalised, include a forthcoming HIV module designed specifically for supporting people who use and inject drugs.

4  
courses available

222  
registered students

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



## SOCIAL MEDIA

Since the last reporting period, our social media and e-list following has grown by **42%** to **8,852**.

This year, we shared **1,736** pieces of content, generating **132,220** organic impressions and **15,200** organic interactions. This outstanding level of engagement is testimony to our communications strategy and the skill of our communications team and community engagement lead in connecting with our community in meaningful ways, producing and sharing content that resonates and inspires participation.






## WEBSITE

The AIVL website acquired **23,654** users within the reporting period.

**VISITS TO OUR WEBSITE ARE UP 37% COMPARED TO THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR.**

Our most visited page on the AIVL website was the updated National NSP Directory, a resource that helps people across Australia locate their nearest Needle and Syringe Program. The directory provides essential information about each service, including opening hours, contact details and physical directions from the user's location. The second most popular page was our resource for people on the national Opioid Treatment Program. This guide offers practical, technical and experience-based information about Australia's Opioid Treatment Program. The guide was developed and written by people who have been on the Opioid Treatment Program themselves and who understand the realities of starting, navigating and maintaining the program. It provides accessible, practical guidance for people currently in the program or considering it.

Other popular pages include past, new and revised BBV/STI harm reduction resources and the Experience Matters series of podcasts, films and other resources. The AIVL website is accessed by a broad range of people, including:

-  People who use/d drugs
-  Researchers
-  Government stakeholders
-  NGO stakeholders
-  Health and Harm Reduction workers

## E-LIST

This reporting period, AIVL sent 34 EDMs. An EDM (Electronic Direct Mail) is an email newsletter we send to our community to share updates, news and resources.

Our E-list has grown into an invaluable resource, giving us a direct line into the inboxes of our member harm reduction programs and Drug User Organisations, as well as the broader peer workforce, AOD, health and harm reduction workers, clinicians, researchers, and policymakers. It also reaches people working in intersecting spaces, including aged care, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, culturally and linguistically diverse services, gender-based violence, housing, LGBTIQ+, policing, prison and community corrections, sex work and sexual and reproductive health.

Since the last reporting period, our e-list audience has grown

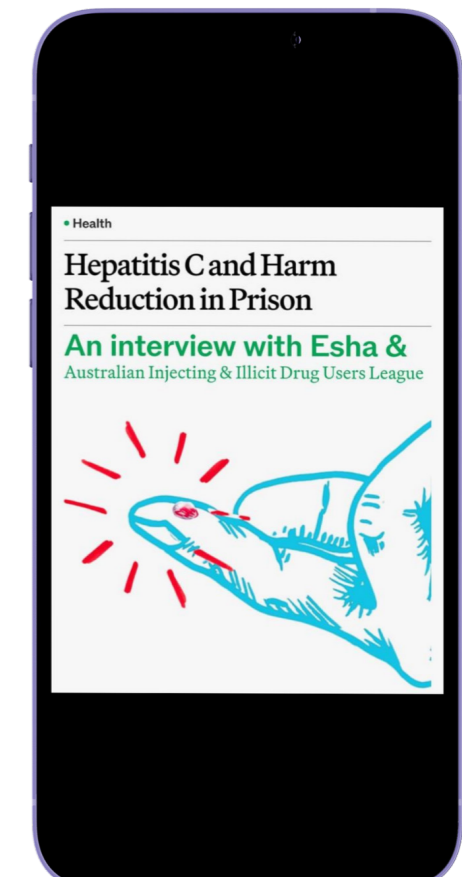
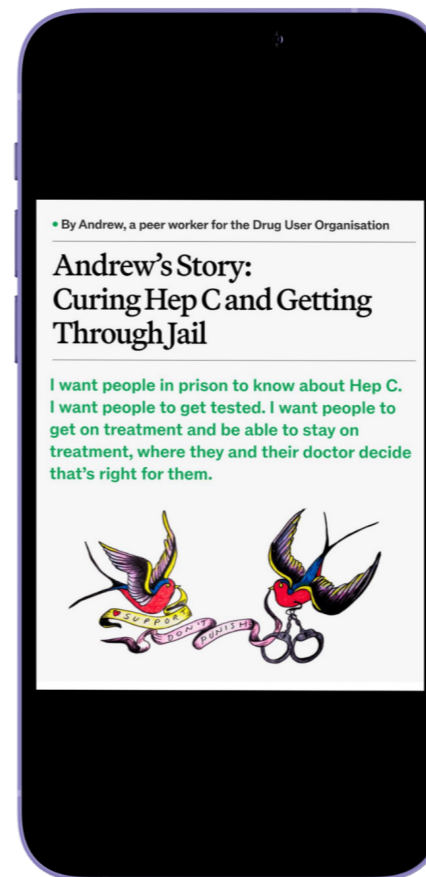
**65%** to **1,492** contacts.

## PEER ARTS COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION (PACE)

Peer Arts Collective Exhibition (PACE) is a publication of community artworks, launched in 2024. PACE received submissions from across the country and featured paintings, illustrations, poetry, short stories, and mixed media pieces from people who use drugs.

Stigma and discrimination can hamper our community's ability to express ourselves, and we know that storytelling across all mediums is an essential tool for bridging the divide stigma creates in society. By providing a platform and celebrating artistic expression PACE shines a spotlight on the diverse talents of people who use drugs and provides a point of connection with all people who create or consume art.





## MEDIA

We strategically partnered with About Time, Australia's National Prison Newspaper, to deliver four articles on hepatitis C, harm reduction, overdose, and the Opioid Treatment Program to incarcerated people across the country. About Time is a printed and digital newspaper, freely distributed each month to tens of thousands of readers in all prisons in Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, Queensland, Western Australia and the ACT.

Our Deputy CEO, Ele Morrison, was featured in the ABC News article 'Access to naloxone still challenging in Australia, with stigma and knowledge gaps within pharmacy sector creating barriers'.

This year, we also launched a media and communication guide that was developed by people who use drugs using a harm reduction lens. The guide aims to help reporters and people writing for media to ensure their coverage of people who use drugs and harm reduction uses respectful language, decreases inadvertent negative impacts, stigma and discrimination, avoids stereotypes and promotes an accurate and informed narrative.



# WORKING WITH PEER COMMUNITIES IN THE PACIFIC

Fiji, one of Australia's closest neighbours, is experiencing a rapidly escalating HIV epidemic, among the fastest globally. 48% of the people who started HIV treatment in Fiji in 2024 were people who inject drugs.

Commissioned by the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Division of Pacific Technical Support and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), AIVL supported the training of community members to conduct a rapid assessment alongside our partners, the Kirby Institute at the University of New South Wales and Fiji National University. This rapid assessment revealed that the low knowledge about blood borne viruses and safer injecting practices, along with limited availability of needles and syringes, is increasing the risk of HIV transmission, as well as viral hepatitis and other injecting-related infections and injuries among people who inject drugs in Fiji.

The most urgent recommendation from the rapid assessment report was to make sterile needles and syringes freely available and accessible to people who inject drugs. Since then, the Ministry of Health and Medical Services has recognised the vital role of harm reduction in preventing HIV and other BBVs, and is working rapidly to introduce needle and syringe programs (NSP) with peer worker roles as part of their health response.



As part of developing the rapid assessment, AIVL was part of facilitating a 5-day training course in Fiji for people from the affected key populations, mainly people who inject drugs. The training aimed to develop peer interviewing skills, with the participating community members going on to interview people who inject drugs in Suva about their knowledge, understanding and practices relating to HIV and injecting drug use.

Since the delivery of the rapid assessment training, AIVL has continued to strengthen our connection with people who use drugs in Fiji. This ongoing engagement has nurtured capacity-building opportunities and the development of community peer leaders. And since the end of the reporting period, AIVL has also continued to work with key partners and the community to support the development of peer-led programming and the implementation of NSPs in Fiji.



# CAPACITY BUILDING

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

During this reporting period, AIVL supported our member, SA Harm Reduction Peer Services (SAhrps), in conducting a community consultation on the potential establishment of an independent Drug User Organisation in South Australia. SAhrps as a peer program has been representing the interests of the community as best as possible, but it is not an independent Drug User Organisation by and for people who use drugs. Following community and service feedback on the impact of the absence of a South Australian peer-controlled Drug User Organisation, a Steering Committee was established. The Committee included Carol Holly, Coordinator of SAhrps; John Gobeil, CEO of AIVL; Michael White, EO of the SA Network of Drug and Alcohol Services (SANDAS); Kat Morrison, CEO of the SA Sex Industry Network (SIN), and Justin France, SAhrps Harm Reduction Peer.

The Steering Committee concluded the priority action was to consult with people who use and inject drugs to see if there was any need or interest in having a membership-based Drug User Organisation in South Australia. The Committee decided it was crucial for the community consultation to be coordinated by a person with lived-experience of drug use who was able to access and engage with people who use and inject drugs.

Funding was provided to SAhrps by AIVL, DASSA, SANDAS and SIN to undertake the community consultation, supporting one day of work per week for a period of up to six months.

People who use and inject drugs participated in the consultation through a community survey (online and paper-based questionnaires) and participated in face-to-face focus groups. Organisations that provide services to people who use and inject drugs were also included in the consultation. Altogether, a total of 124 people were engaged.

The consultation outcome showed overwhelming community support for a representative and peer-controlled Drug User Organisation in South Australia. Concluding that an organisation by and for people who use and inject drugs would be of benefit to members, the wider drug using community, the AOD sector, and other stakeholders.

- Between 98% - 100% of the people who use and inject drugs consulted supported the idea of a Drug User Organisation in SA.
- Between 72% - 100% would join a Drug User Organisation in SA.
- 100% of stakeholder organisation representatives believed a peer-controlled, membership-based Drug User Organisation in South Australia would support the work of their organisation.
- 92% of stakeholder organisation representatives would refer a client to a peer-based Drug User Organisation for support or advocacy.

The consultation confirmed there is an immediate need and support for a peer-controlled Drug User Organisation in South Australia, and AIVL will continue to support our member SAhrps and the South Australian community in their journey towards the development and implementation of the organisation in the upcoming years.

## TASMANIA

The Tasmanian Users Health and Support League (TUHSL) is Tasmania's peer-based Drug User Organisation, 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 across the state. The organisation also challenges stigma and discrimination and advocate for drug law reform.

TUHSL does not currently receive core government funding. The AIVL Network and the national community of people who use drugs benefit from the thriving operation of a Drug User Organisation in Tasmania. AIVL supports the development and capacity of TUHSL to ensure a sustainable, peer-based organisation can effectively respond to the needs of the community.

In the 2024/25 financial year, AIVL has continued to provide in-kind contributions to TUHSL's operation, including IT resources, equipment and mentorship focused on policy and stakeholder management. Alongside the provision of time from the AIVL Capacity Building Lead to support Tasmanian-based activities, including harm reduction workshops in prisons, the creation and dissemination of community drug alerts, hosting community events such as a World AIDS Day breakfast and providing peer support and promotion for Hepatitis C testing clinics across Tasmania.

## TUHSL KEY ACTIVITIES AND HIGHLIGHTS



### New Norfolk Community outreach BBQ – October 2024

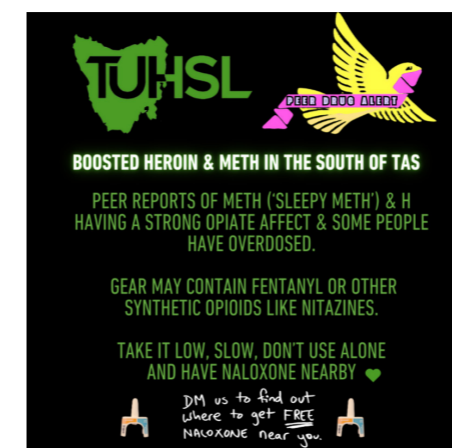
TUHSL was invited to partner with Centrecare to host a community harm reduction BBQ event in New Norfolk, a small, rural community in the Derwent Valley. The event aimed to support the local community of people who use drugs by promoting and facilitating the safe management and disposal of injecting equipment in the area.

Alongside facilitating peer discussions about suitable sharp disposal options, TUHSL provided harm reduction resources, pre-packaged harm reduction kits, including sterile injecting equipment, information about hepatitis C and upcoming peer-supported testing and treatment clinics, as well as naloxone distribution and training.



### Men's Health Week Expo at Ron Barwick Men's Prison – October 2024

TUHSL delivered a harm reduction, injecting and BBV awareness activity focused on the power of effective handwashing.



### TUHSL Peer Drug Alert Issued – November 2024

The catalyst for TUHSL's reformation was to issue peer drug alerts and respond to harms associated with unregulated and often contaminated illicit drug supply.



**World AIDS Day Morning Tea - December 2024**

With the support of Ella Haddad, Labor MP, who provided an event space and TasCHARD, who provided a \$100 Woolworths voucher, TUHSL hosted its first World AIDS Day breakfast. Red flower bouquets were provided by TUHSL Vice President, Kerrie Dare, and TUHSL also designed and produced a special edition 2024 World AIDS Day postcard. The Postcard featured Supermodel, Gia Carrangi, a queer, high-profile woman who injected drugs and contracted HIV during the AIDS crisis, who died of AIDS related illness in the 1990s. The postcard included a short bio on Gia and was a TUHSL promotional asset, including a QR code linking to the TUHSL Instagram account.



**Peer-Based Harm Reduction Workshops at Ron Barwick Men's Prison – May 2025**

The TUHSL then President, Jo Murphy, and Board Secretary, Emily Ebdon, delivered a series of five weekly harm reduction workshops at Ron Barwick Men's Prison. The workshops were well attended and received very positive feedback from participants in the evaluation.

As part of a capacity-building initiative, TUHSL welcomed Naomi, Education and Outreach Officer from TasCHARD, to participate in the project. Naomi attended each workshop, providing support to the TUHSL facilitators and delivering one workshop in the series focused on HIV. The Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services contributed one-off funds to support TUHSL in delivering these workshops.



**Stigma Indicators Monitoring Project – June 2025**

In June 2024, TUHSL collected data for the National Stigma Indicators Monitoring Project, and Emily coordinated the recruitment of participants for this study across three primary NSP sites in Hobart and the Greater Hobart region. This marked the first time Tasmanian data was collected for the project, as previous data collection had been limited by the absence of peer expertise to facilitate the process.

# FINANCE

## FINANCIAL POSITION

**Total Assets:** \$1,157,260

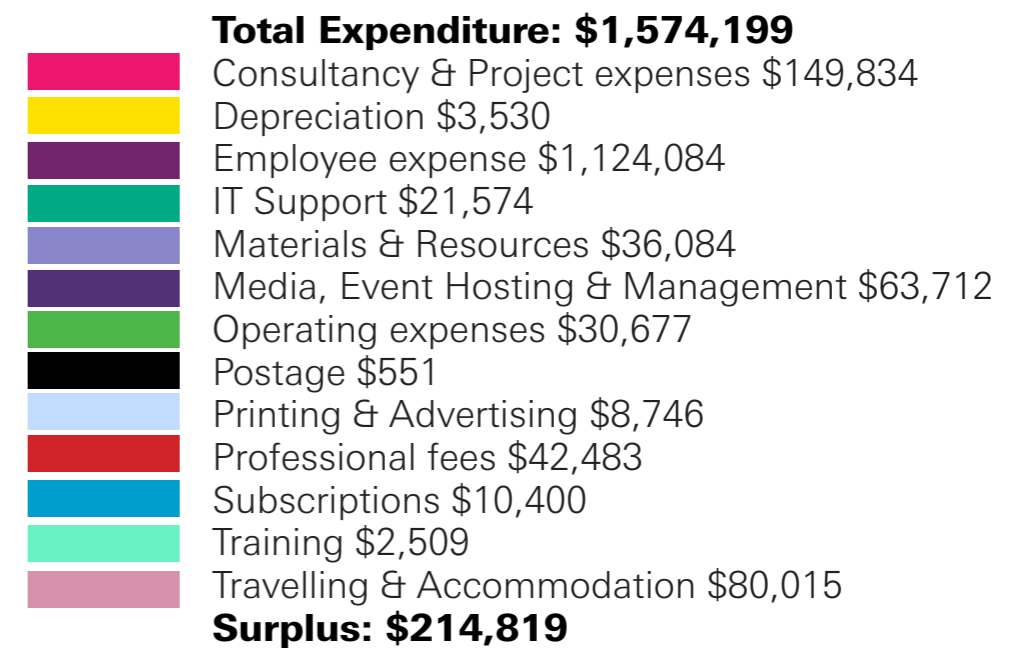
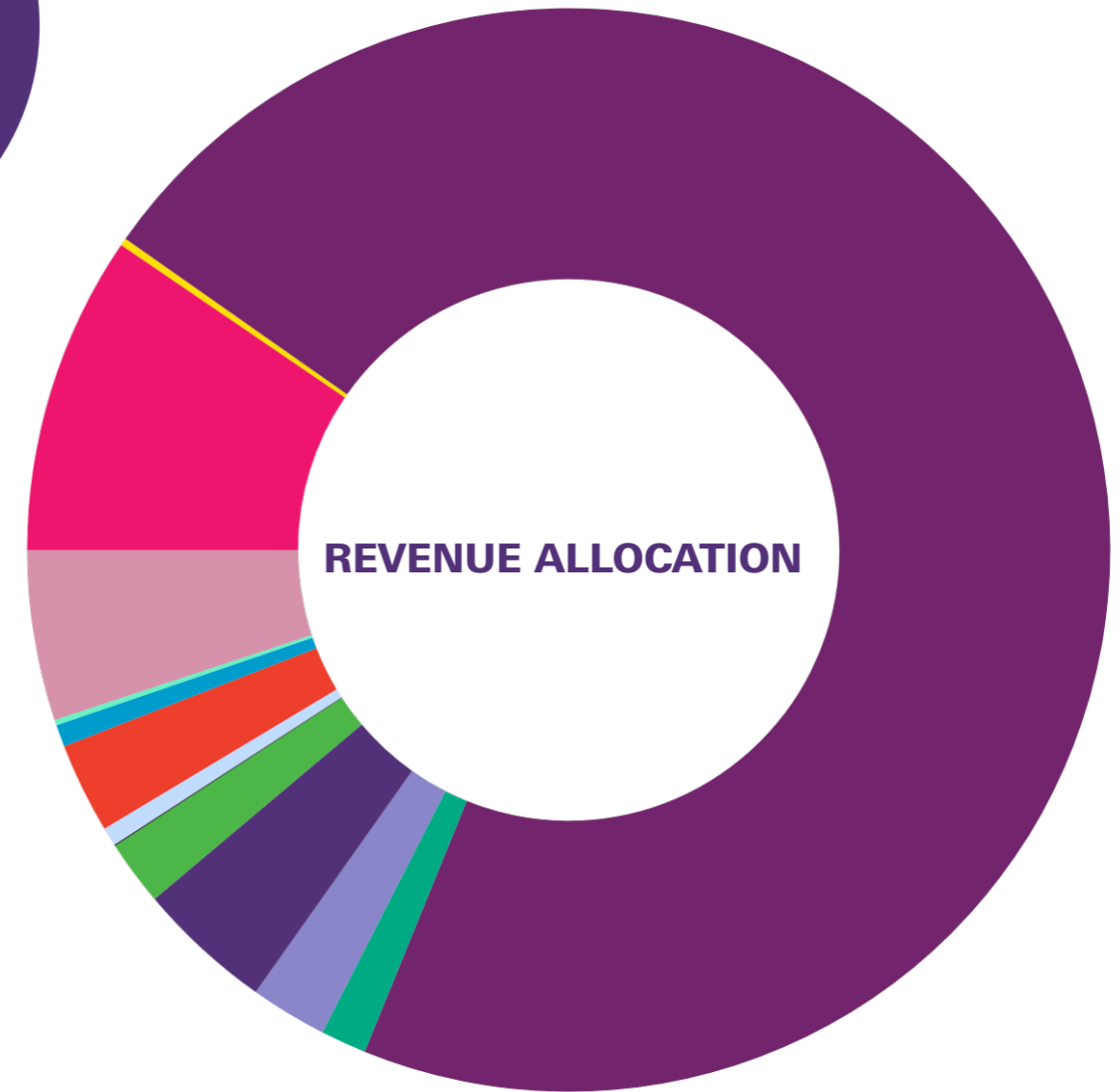
**Total Liabilities:** \$357,754

**Total Equity:** \$799,506

**Total Revenue:** \$1,789,018

**Grants & Sponsorships:** \$1,657,091

**Contracted work:** \$131,927





 Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League - AIVL

 AIVL For PWUD Wellbeing, Health & Human Rights

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