



Annual Report 2023-24.

Impacting communities.

A message from our Chair and CEO.



Barry Sandison

Acting Chair

Dr Erin Lalor AM

Chief Executive Officer

Impact has been a central theme for the ADF across 2023-24.

We have increased our program footprint around Australia, allowing us to positively impact more communities as they work to address local alcohol and other drug (AOD) concerns.

And we have undertaken rigorous evaluations to help us understand the impact of our programs as well as opportunities for continuous improvement.

In late 2023, we completed an evidence-based review of Good Sports, engaging an independent third party to review more than 20 years of evidence.

This work informed the development of a formal report - 'Celebrating 25 years: a report on the impact of Good Sports' - which we released to mark the 25th anniversary of the program in October.

The report noted Good Sports is resulting in 37% less risky drinking and 42% less overall harm in participating clubs.

Clubs report less reliance on alcohol sponsorship, increased knowledge and confidence to develop an illegal drugs policy, more confidence in managing illegal drug issues, and an improved reputation in their community.

Last year, we improved our Local Drug Action Team (LDAT) program by listening to our LDATs and developing a digital platform that makes it easier to manage Community Action Plans and introducing updated, evidence-informed toolkits and purpose-built evaluation tools.

Evaluation showed 92% of LDATs were able to provide evidence of impact and 86% increased their knowledge of best practice AOD harm prevention through the program.

The annual LDAT survey showed that nearly all LDATs (95%) agreed or strongly agreed that the ADF supported them to deliver evidence-informed activities.

The results of the Good Sports and LDAT programs underscore the power of using place-based approaches to address local issues.

This year marked the fourth year of our five-year strategic plan, and we continue to make inroads to achieving our priorities of:

- establishing a suite of credible, evidence-based approaches with demonstrable impact on AOD harms
- increasing adoption of evidence-based approaches that drive change
- sustaining the ADF and improving impact with a strong focus on funding, systems and process
- creating digital solutions to amplify reach and enable change.

We are well positioned, as we move into the final year of this plan, working towards a future where lives are unlimited by alcohol and other drug harms.

Our people continue to drive the impact of the ADF – internally and externally.

We commenced a search for a new ADF Chair, filling the vacancy left by outgoing Chair, Peter Wilson AM. Peter has a passion for bettering Australian lives and we thank him for his insightful governance and direction.

We end 2023-24 acknowledging our Board, staff, funders and program participants.

It is our combined strength that has the power to have the biggest impact.

Connecting with
communities.



Local Drug Action Teams.

The Local Drug Action Team (LDAT) program is focused on building the capacity of Australian communities to address AOD-related harm through evidence-informed activities that are developed, implemented and evaluated by our Local Drug Action Teams.

A key aspect of the program is building capacity within communities. This includes strengthening partnerships, broadening community leadership, and providing access to resources and collaborative learning.

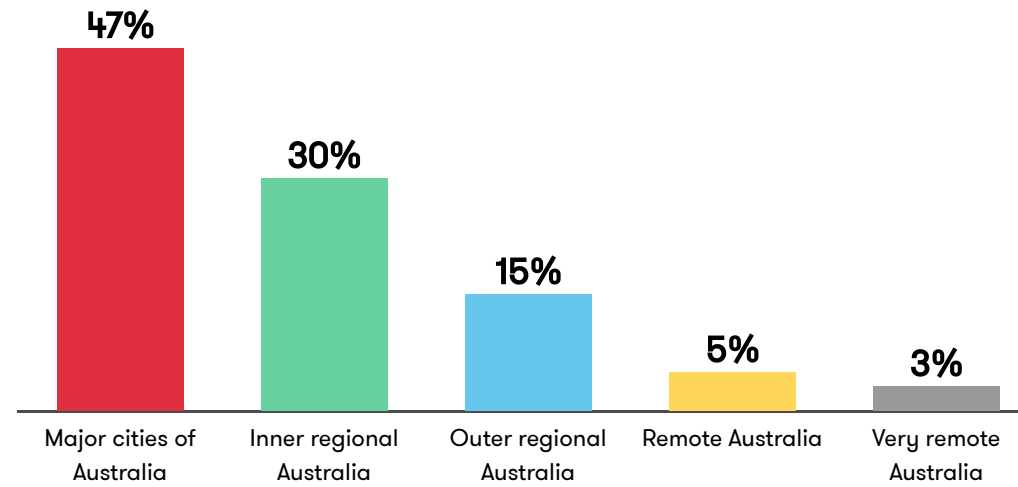
We commenced 2023-24 with the launch of our streamlined program, which was the culmination of a strategic refresh undertaken last financial year. This included transitioning all LDATs to our new online digital platform and introducing a suite of upgraded evidence-based toolkits, an updated Lifecycle Planner and purpose-built evaluation tools.

In assessing the impact of these enhancements, LDATs have reported satisfaction with the new resources, finding them helpful in developing measures of success and ways to collect data.

Collaborative learning, through the LDAT Community of Practice (CoP), has been a central focus for the program this year. Regular online webinars have been delivered, with topics such as: identifying local AOD issues; creating social connection/belonging and purpose; AOD Education in Schools (OurFutures); and, measuring success.

An LDAT Community Advisory Council was established to drive CoP content and ensure LDATs' information needs are met. The Council, which meets quarterly, comprises experienced LDAT members from across the country, including three Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives.

LDAT locations



Grants dispersed



273

Number of LDATs



159

CAPs funded



162

CAPs completed



2,596

Organisations



7

Community forums held



11

CoP sessions

Inside a Local Drug Action Team.

In the rural town of Longreach, police and teachers are mentoring disadvantaged young people (aged 14 to 18 years) at hands-on shearing camps.

Through the Longreach and Central Queensland LDAT's Central West Queensland Youth and Wool Industry Program, participants learn practical skills and complete their Certificate 2 in Agriculture, creating employment pathways.

And, it's not just all about shearing - responsibilities include mending fences, rustling sheep and cattle, and cooking dinner.

The program is aimed at students who are at high risk of disengaging from education and community. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people make up a large proportion of the students.



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“It's a way for youth to be exposed to police and job prospects in the shearing and wool industry. We get to know each other for a whole week on a personal level, working side-by-side and building relationships.”

Senior Constable Leilani Ah Wong, LDAT lead

Good Sports.

For 25 years, Good Sports has supported community clubs to develop, commit to, and maintain policies and practices that prevent alcohol and other drug harm.

Clubs learn how to prevent or reduce risky alcohol consumption and behaviour, promoting a healthier, safer and more family-friendly environment. Importantly, they also develop an increased awareness of how to prevent or reduce children's exposure to alcohol use in sport and build diversified and sustainable funding to prevent reliance on alcohol sponsorship.

ADF Relationship Managers play an important role in guiding and supporting clubs to consider the benefits of proactive alcohol management through one-on-one engagement and club workshops. During the year, a range of enhancements were made to improve club access to the online portal, which guides policy development and progression through the program.

In 2023, Good Sports turned 25. We marked this milestone with an impact report, "Celebrating 25 Years of Good Sports", which was officially launched at the Gabba in Brisbane, achieving national media coverage.

The annual Good Sports Awards, announced at Parliament House in Canberra in early 2024, also achieved extensive media coverage. The awards recognise clubs that go above and beyond to break the link between alcohol and their sport and create positive change in their communities.

This year, 472 clubs progressed through the program to achieve Gold accreditation - the highest level in the program. Gold-accredited clubs have good knowledge (90%) and confidence (92%) to maintain positive changes to promote non-risky alcohol use in their clubs.



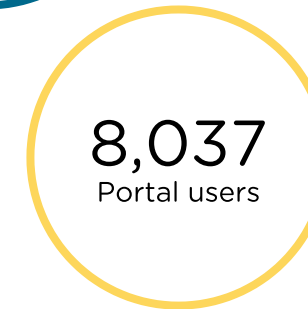
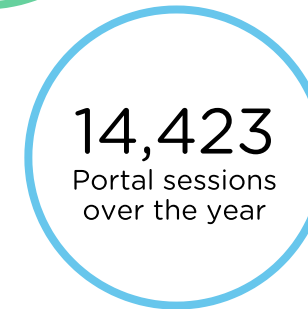
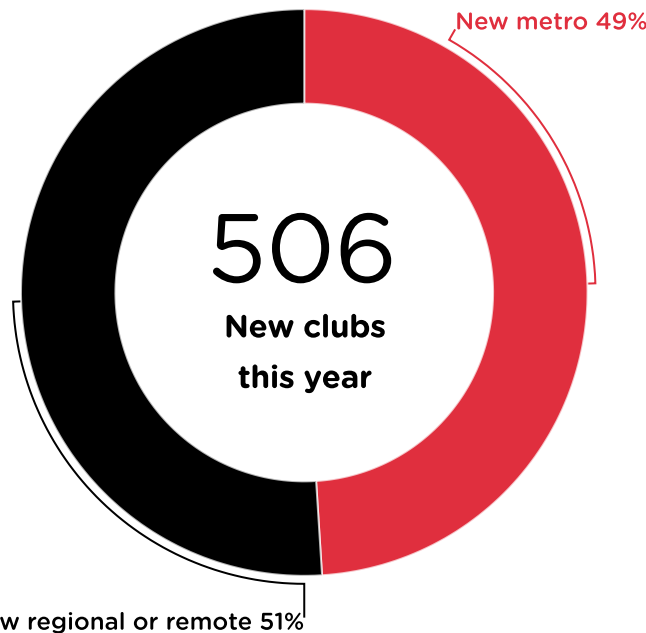
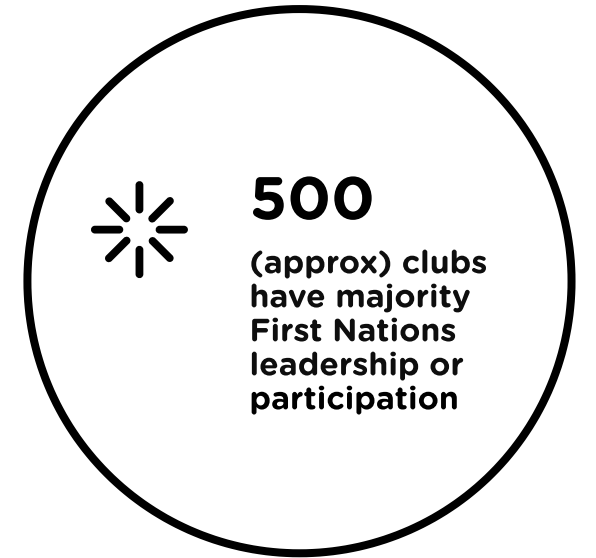
9,316

Junior clubs /
clubs with junior
members (78%)



6076

Regional /
remote clubs
(51%)



Inside a Good Sports Club.

New South Wales' Orange United Sports Club was awarded Good Sports 2023 National Club of the Year, the Safe Transport Award and NSW Club of the Year. The awards recognise their work tackling alcohol, illicit drugs, smoking, mental health and safe transport.

Club President, Katrina Hausia, said the program has helped Orange United adopt new practices across a range of sporting codes including basketball, netball, touch football, soccer, league tag, cultural dance, and rugby league.

Orange United has reached Gold accreditation – the highest level of the Good Sports program. The club educates members on risky alcohol and drug use and delivers events and activities around mental health.



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“Our club does not supply alcohol, or have it consumed at our home games. After identifying fatigue was a risk for some players driving more than two hours both ways to play, we introduced courtesy buses to help them stay safe.”

Club President, Katrina Hausia

Our Pilot Programs.

Planet Youth

The Australian pilot of Planet Youth, conducted by six LDATs, concluded at the end of June 2024.

Planet Youth is an Icelandic adolescent substance use prevention model. It was piloted by the ADF as part of our commitment to trialling approaches to identify what works to build an Australian evidence base. Evaluation to understand how the model could work in an Australian context is underway.



SA 4 | NSW 2

Stronger Through Sport

The Stronger Through Sport pilot continued this year in four communities across Australia.

The program supports at-risk 14–20-year-olds to participate in community sport by creating pathways between local organisations, referral agencies and Good Sports clubs. Young people are supported to join a club of their choice and can access financial grants to help them overcome barriers to participation such as membership fees, uniforms and travel costs. Good Sports clubs identify leaders who are trained to act as positive role models for program participants.



Here For The Game

The ADF teamed up with the South Australian Government's 'Here For The Game' anti-gambling initiative to conduct a community program pilot.

The new community program, which was designed and developed by the ADF with academic partner, La Trobe University, leverages Good Sports' evidence-based methodology and knowledge. It will support tailored, progressive stages of change in club environments to disrupt the normalisation of gambling in the club community.



Sharing quality
information.



Information Services.

Our Information Services program develops evidence-based resources and initiatives to provide Australian communities, health professionals, AOD workers, and the media with up-to-date information on alcohol and other drugs, prevention, early intervention and harm reduction facts and advice.

We are firmly focused on ensuring people have access to the 'right information, in the right format, at the right time'.

This year we continued to pursue and maintain partnerships and collaborations through our Stakeholder Engagement Plan. This work helps us promote our DrugInfo resources to a wide audience and informs our AOD information service needs.

Targeting priority populations remains a key focus. Central to this is our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Resources Project. This year, the 14 resources launched in 2022-23 were reformatted into printed brochure and booklet versions for dissemination by key Victorian stakeholders and LDATs nationally.

The ADF Library is the largest and most up-to-date AOD library in Australia, providing free access to a wide range of specialist resources, including 11,000+ journals and databases.



Information Services.

ADF Library.



127,943

Drug Information
Directory / Help &
Support Services
sessions



14,239

Text the
Effects
enquiries



11,000+

Journals and
databases



12,046

ADF Library
page views



9,705,305

ADF web sessions



3

Mini Bulletins



6,585

Members in
total



25,384

ADF Library
WorldCat
views/sessions



27

Insights
articles with
specialised
content



687

New members
(12% increase
from last year)

Campaign Activity.

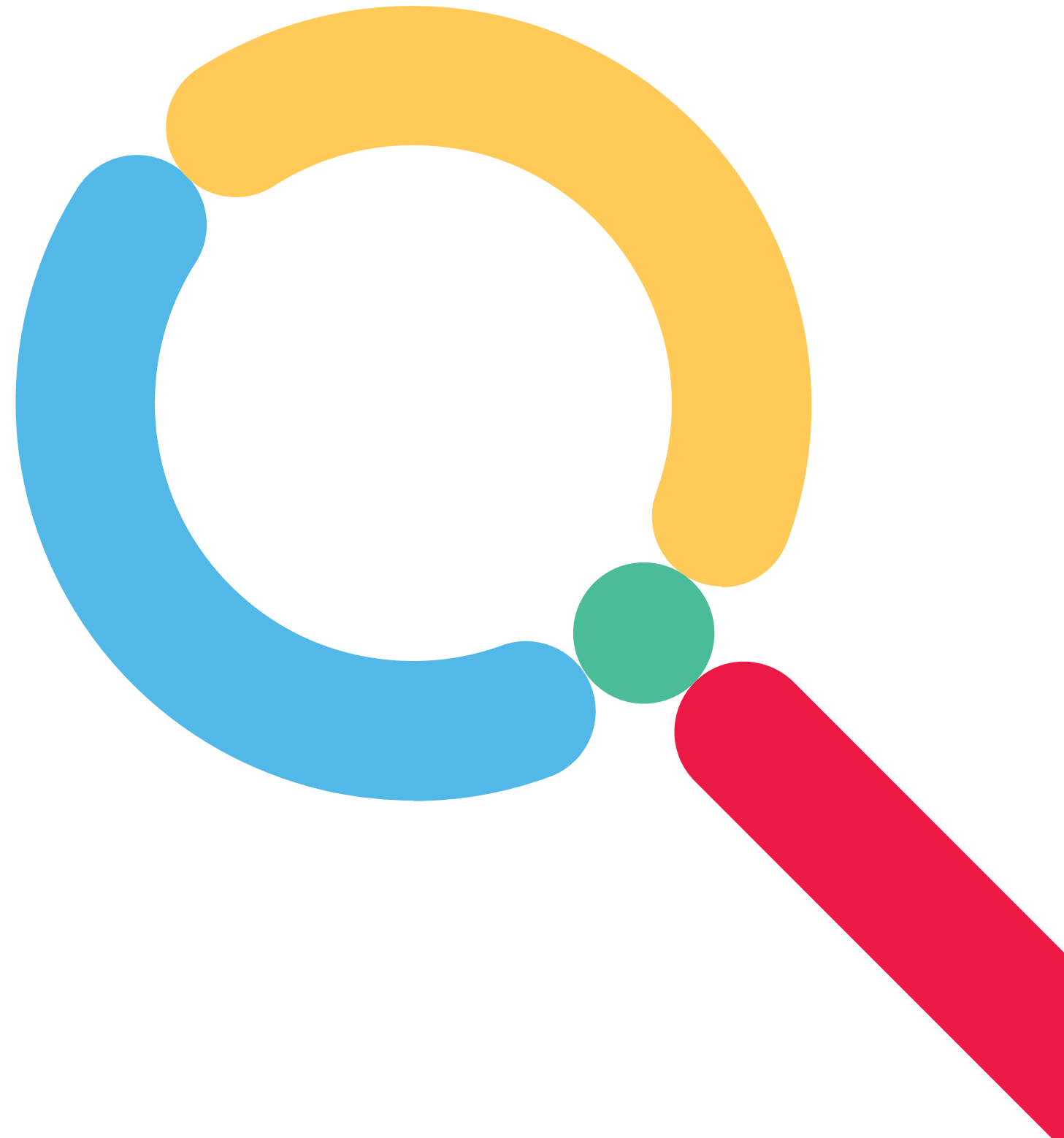
Marketing campaigns to drive behavioural change are an important tactic for the ADF, reaching audiences such as parents, young people who drink at risky levels, and families and friends of those who use AOD.

Funding from CO-ORDINAIRE (the South Eastern NSW PHN) enabled us to launch two campaigns in the region.

We developed 'Keep Their Future Bright', highlighting to parents of teenagers that even in small amounts, alcohol can damage the development of the teenage brain. The campaign was underpinned by values-based messaging, a communications strategy that appeals to an audience's core values.





We also re-ran our 'Reducing Risky Drinking' campaign, targeting young people aged 18-24 years in the region. The campaign raised awareness of the harms linked to alcohol consumption, and the benefits of drinking within the Australian guidelines.

Nationally, we continued to promote Path2Help, our help seeker portal for family and friends of people who use alcohol and other drugs. An integrated marketing campaign raised awareness and drove usage of the tool from February until June 2024.



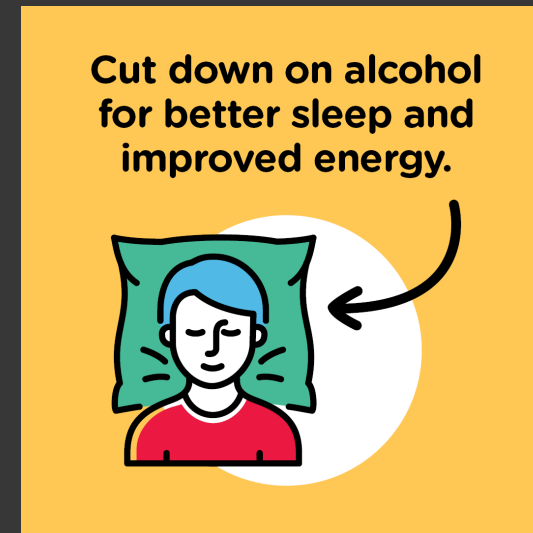
Campaign Activity.






Keep Their Future Bright.

-  **1.2M**
Reach
-  **57,000**
Clicks to website
-  **9.2M**
Impressions
-  **5.2M**
Video plays




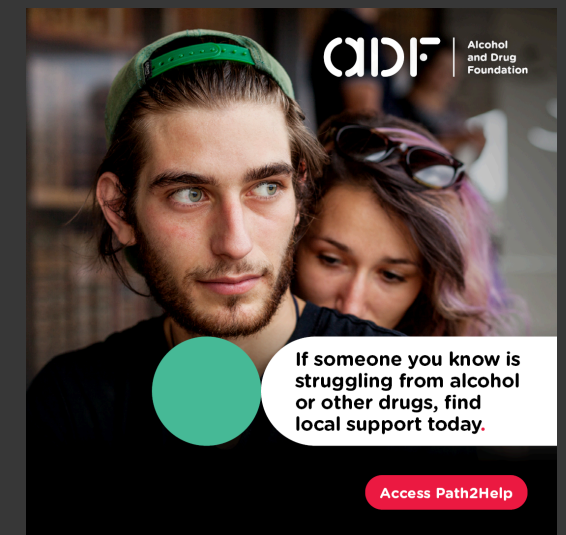
Reducing Risky Drinking.



-  **9,700**
Website sessions
-  **11,200**
Clicks to website
-  **5.1M**
Impressions
-  **1.3M**
Video plays
-  **494k**
Reach

Path2Help.

-  **11,617**
Tool completes
-  **22.7M**
Impressions
-  **33,284**
Help searches
-  **3.5M**
Reach
-  **97,810**
Webpage sessions
-  **7.5M**
Video views
-  **85,004**
Unique users
-  **857**
Audio listens



Building the
evidence base.



Evidence and Innovation.

The ADF works to improve knowledge, attitudes, and practices to prevent and delay AOD uptake among young people and strengthen prevention and harm reduction strategies for all. To do this, we need to know what works in preventing and reducing AOD harms and increasing adoption of evidence-based approaches.

This year we have achieved the following:

1.0

Completed a rapid Evidence Review on regulation of cannabis using our Evidence Framework: The rapid review sought to gather and appraise the best international evidence on the impacts of cannabis legalisation models on several areas of interest, including cannabis use, various health, social and legal related outcomes, and cannabis markets. The data has been used to inform the ADF's position on cannabis regulation.

2.0

Conducted in-depth research into older adults and AOD: Australia has a growing, ageing population. Many older adults have an increased risk of certain AOD-related harms. Changes in physical and mental wellbeing, feelings of isolation and the increased likelihood of being prescribed medication and using multiple medications, all contribute to the risk of harm. The ADF, in partnership with NDARC, conducted an analysis of trend and harm data as well as a rapid review of peer reviewed publications to understand what AOD-related harms are experienced by older Australians, and what works in preventing and reducing these harms.

3.0

Disseminated key findings from our Information Services Survey: The Information Services Survey was presented as a full paper and presentation at the Kettil Bruun Society's 49th Alcohol Symposium. The presentation focused on the importance of supporting earlier help-seeking for risky alcohol use, and included survey insights to better understand how people want, and use, alcohol information, support and treatment. The paper and presentation explored how these insights could be applied to aid in the development of information, self-help tools and other supports to address the identified gaps.

4.0

Continued developing new innovative approaches to prevent harms from AOD: We have been developing new evidence-based practices through research and evaluation driven by evidence, evidence gaps and community needs. We have also implemented a new Innovation Strategy, with regular conceptualisation sessions to develop new ideas for piloting, and the introduction of an 'Ideas Board' sourcing innovative ideas and ways of 'doing it better'.

Championing
change.



Advocacy.

The ADF remains dedicated to reinforcing our role as a trusted partner and advisor to governments. We are committed to inspiring positive change and delivering evidence-based approaches to minimise AOD harm in Australia.

This year, our priorities included advancing drug law reform, tackling vaping-related harm, addressing AOD-related gendered and family violence, and enhancing prevention and early intervention strategies.

The ADF continues to lead the charge in advocating for robust AOD policies nationwide. Our efforts have been instrumental in shaping drug laws that favour a health-based approach to personal drug use over a criminal one, a shift already realised in Queensland and the ACT.

We continue working to establish and sustain strong connections with key stakeholders in the federal government, both politically and within departments, as well as with state government representatives. These efforts are crucial in maintaining our trusted role with government bodies and enhancing our organisational sustainability through strategic partnerships.

We have also continued to support our partnerships with traditional AOD sector partners, peak bodies and medical organisations and have strengthened our ongoing efforts to forge new connections across the health and community sectors.



1

Position Paper published



10.8k

Advocacy web page views



1,521

Position Paper downloads



38

Submissions to inquiries and consultations



7

Parliamentary committee inquiries attended

Reconciliation Action Plan.

The ADF 'Stretch' Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) was launched in December 2023.

Our Stretch RAP will ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians play a central role in how we work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, with the shared aim of creating long term impact by preventing and minimising AOD harms.

In December 2023, the ADF launched the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander AOD resources. We worked with external stakeholders, who formed an advisory group to review and develop these resources to ensure that they are culturally safe and appropriate.

Our ongoing commitment to reconciliation is an organisational priority with new and existing staff attending Cultural Respect and Safety training in April. We also offer the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) Core online cultural awareness training for all staff.

Internally, we mark dates of significance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC week, across all our offices.

Image: Together, by Charmaine Mumbulla of Sydney-based creative agency Mumbulla Creative. This artwork was commissioned by the ADF for the Stretch RAP and conveys the central theme of inspiring positive change through working together.

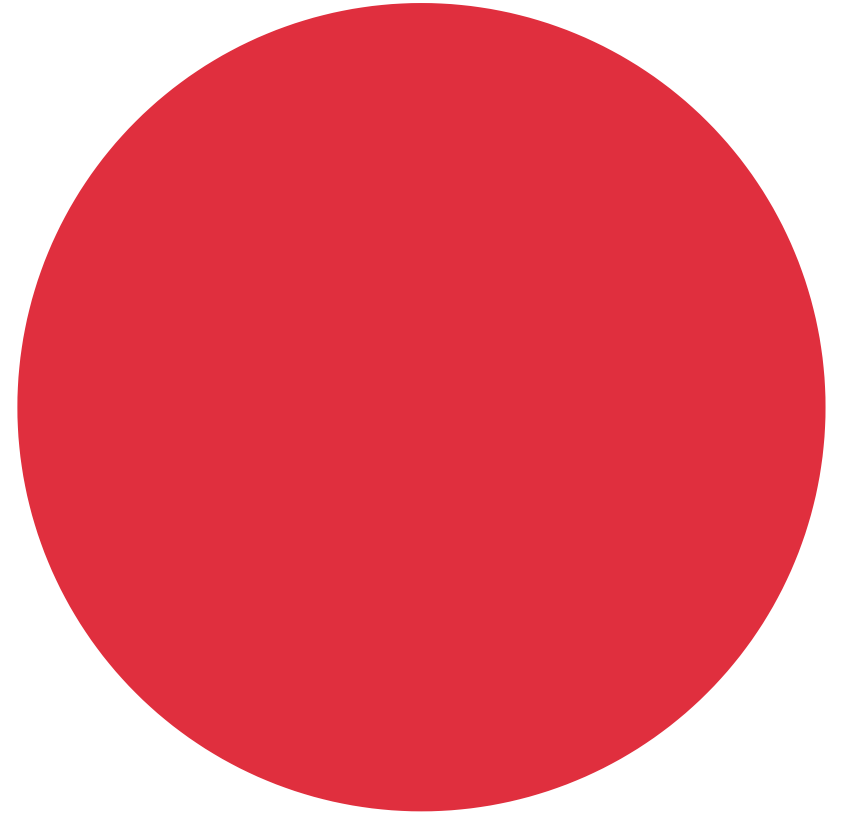
22
staff completed
face-to-face
cultural training

3rd
RAP launched
for ADF

16 significant dates observed



Building
a strong
foundation.



Investing in our people.

We are continuing to see the benefits of investments made in our people over the past few years.

The training programs, leadership development, and secondment opportunities introduced are helping our staff grow and excel in their roles, also making them more 'connected, informed and caring'.

The Leadership Program launched last year, is well underway with the second cohort, another 20 staff members, participating in the comprehensive program.

In May 2024, we brought all ADF staff together in Melbourne for an immersive two-day learning and development All Staff Event. Guest speakers, including participants from our Good Sports and Local Drug Action Teams, shared knowledge and stories related to the ADF's work, enhancing our collective understanding and commitment to our mission of inspiring positive change and delivering evidence-based approaches to minimise alcohol and drug harm.

And to build on previous staff development offerings through the Learning Management System, this year's All Staff Event included a dedicated parallel session on capability building, offering staff the opportunity to further their presentation, influencing and negotiation, facilitation, or managing difficult conversations skills.

By continuing to nurture our staff's growth and development, we are seeing stronger engagement and performance results.

Investing in our systems.

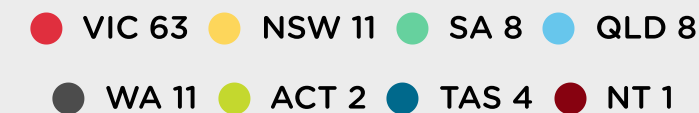
Over the past year, we have made key upgrades to our processes and systems that have improved performance, security, and the overall user experience.

By enhancing our infrastructure and streamlining processes, we have achieved faster response times and system efficiencies. This includes the introduction of a new HRIS platform, with updated systems and new modules - the first new HR system at the ADF since 2017.

Our commitment to comply with the Australian Cyber Security Commission's Essential Eight, together with our Cyber Security Management Plan, continues with the roll out of stronger security measures, like advanced encryption and multi-factor authentication, to keep data safer and minimise risks.

These improvements have made our systems more reliable and easier to use, resulting in a smoother experience overall.

Total Staff 108

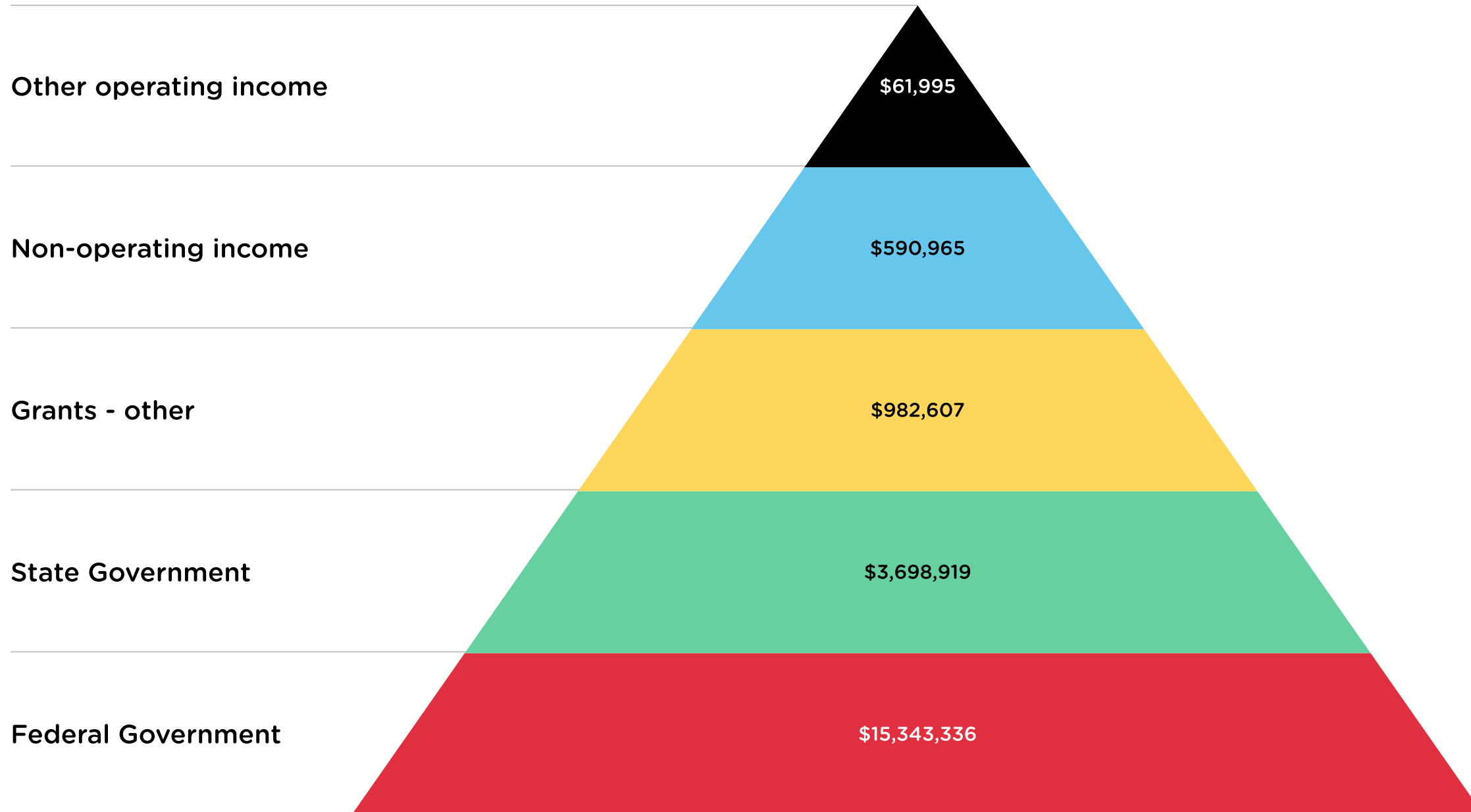




ADF's national workforce.

Financial report.

To view the ADF's full financial report for the year ended June 30, 2023, [click here](#)



Thank you.

Our funding partners

Australian Government: Department of Health and Aged Care; Department of Industry, Science and Resources; Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Victoria: Department of Health

New South Wales: Transport for NSW; COORDINARE Ltd – South Eastern NSW PHN

Northern Territory: Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities

Queensland: Queensland Mental Health Commission

South Australia: Wellbeing South Australia; Department for Infrastructure and Transport; Department of Human Services

Tasmania: Department of Health; Department of State Growth

Western Australia: Healthway

Other Grants: The Baker Foundation; Brian M. Davis Charitable Foundation; Perpetual; VicHealth

Our Board

Barry Sandison (Acting Chair) - joined 2021

Prof Steve Allsop – joined 2018

Joshua Chalmers – joined 2018

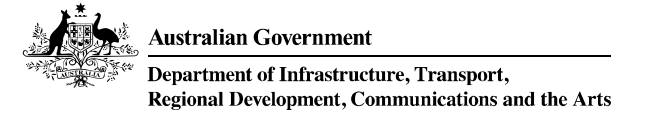
Jennifer Hendry – joined 2010

Karina Keisler – joined 2020

Assoc Prof Kylie Lee – joined 2022

Assoc Prof Dr Michael Livingston – joined 2022

Serge Sardo – joined 2020



Leaving a gift in your will.

The Alcohol and Drug Foundation has a long and proud history of working to prevent and minimise the harm caused by alcohol and other drugs in Australia. Leaving a gift to the ADF in your will has the power to continue this work for future generations. We are extremely grateful to all those who have supported our mission this year.

adf.org.au

Gifts in Wills - Quick Information

ABN: 66 057 731 192

Legal Name: Alcohol and Drug Foundation Incorporated

Registered Address: Level 12/607 Bourke Street Melbourne VIC 3000

Do you need wording for your will or have any other questions?

Please contact the Gifts in Wills Team on 03 9611 6105.

[**adf.org.au**](http://adf.org.au)