

A photograph of two men standing in a park-like setting with trees and grass. The man on the left is younger, has a beard, and is wearing a denim jacket over a brown t-shirt and dark pants. He is holding a soccer ball. The man on the right is older, has grey hair, and is wearing a dark green sweater and dark pants. He is gesturing with his right hand as if speaking. The background is a soft-focus green landscape.

The time **is now**

**An Independent Lived Experience
Organisation for Tasmania's Alcohol
and other Drug Sector**

Budget Priority Statement 2023-24

No Harm, No Discrimination

atdc

Alcohol, Tobacco and other
Drugs Council Tasmania

About us

The Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council Tasmania (ATDC) is the peak body supporting community organisations, and the people they assist, to reduce alcohol, tobacco and other drug related harm. Our vision is a Tasmania without alcohol, tobacco or other drug related harm or discrimination.

As an independent not-for-profit organisation, the ATDC represents a broad range of alcohol, tobacco and other drug community-managed organisations. These organisations provide information and awareness, prevention and early intervention, harm reduction and specialised treatment and recovery services and programs.

Working with all levels of government and the community, the ATDC plays a vital role in leading, collaborating and advocating for increased investment into treatment services, and population-based initiatives that raise awareness, provide information and access to quality treatment and support.

The ATDC supports the sector by delivering training, networking and information sharing opportunities, as well as undertaking policy and advocacy projects with, and on behalf of our members. At all times, our work is underpinned by a commitment to evidence-based practices and policies, lived experience participation, harm reduction, and partnerships and collaboration.

Key contact

Alison Lai, CEO
Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council Tasmania
03 6231 5002
ceo@atdc.org.au

Acknowledgements

The ATDC wishes to acknowledge Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the custodians of lutruwita/Tasmania. We recognise and pay our respects to elders and leaders of the community, past and present.

The ATDC wishes to thank our member organisations for their continued excellence in the delivery of alcohol, tobacco and other drug services and programs for Tasmanians. We also acknowledge the many volunteers in our sector and those with lived experience. The ATDC also gratefully acknowledges the financial and other support provided by the Tasmanian Department of Health, Primary Health Tasmania and the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care.



What is needed?

An Independent Lived Experience Organisation for Tasmania's Alcohol and other Drug Sector

\$2.035 million over 5 years, 2023 - 2028

“ The intention ... is that within three years, a sustainable, funded and valued consumer representation organisation will exist for the AOD sector in Tasmania that can provide systemic representation of people with lived experience.

In doing this, the quality and outcomes of services will be enhanced for clients/consumers and service providers as will the health and human rights of clients/consumers.

Reform Agenda for the Alcohol and Other Drugs Sector in Tasmania 2020
Department of Health, Tasmanian Government

Below L-R: Jackie, Liz, Emily, Dan, Alison, Ruzina, Greg (ATDC, September 2021)

Cover: Matthew and Jeffrey (ATDC Lived Experience Advocate Service)





Jeffrey (ATDC Lived Experience Advocate Service)

An Independent Lived Experience Organisation for Tasmania's Alcohol and Other Drug Sector

\$2.035 million over 5 years

We are ready for the introduction of an independent organisation.
The time is now.

What are we asking for?

- Funding to establish an independent lived experience organisation for Tasmania's alcohol and other drug (AOD) sector.
- \$375,000 in 2023-24 to establish the independent organisation.
- \$415,000 per annum from 2024-28 to fund the independent organisation. This includes funding for the Lived Experience Advocate Service.

Why are we asking for it?

The first key action of the 10-year Tasmanian Government's *Reform Agenda for the Alcohol and Other Drugs Sector in Tasmania*¹ (*Reform Agenda*) is to "establish a funded AOD consumer organisation in Tasmania". Informed by the ATDC's 2019 Options Paper *How do we add the missing piece? An ATOD Consumer Representative Organisation for Tasmania*, the organisation will provide state-wide systemic advocacy and leadership for Tasmanians with lived experience of AOD use.

The importance of this action is shared by all key stakeholders in the Tasmanian AOD sector across government, academia and the community-managed sector.

The purpose of the independent organisation would be to:

1. **Provide independent leadership** for Tasmanians with a lived experience of AOD use through advocacy, representation and policy development.
2. **Support capacity building** for Tasmanians with a lived experience and the community managed AOD sector to enhance the quality of services and outcomes achieved.
3. **Contribute to the growth of a peer workforce** in the Tasmanian health system and provide consumer-focused solutions to those navigating the AOD service system.

When the Reform Agenda was launched in 2020, the Tasmanian Government committed to the introduction of the independent organisation within three years. Since then, the ATDC has implemented projects and initiatives to position our sector for the introduction of the organisation:

- The launch and operation of the Lived Experience Advocate Service (LEAS). The LEAS facilitated 150+ participation opportunities across the state for Tasmanians with a lived experience in 2021-22. The inclusion of AOD lived experience on government policy working groups, executive committees and public sector recruitment processes is now the highest it has ever been. The LEAS would transition across to the independent organisation. The number of opportunities for Tasmanians with lived experience contributing to sector policy and reform discussions is set to increase and gain further credibility through the work of the independent organisation.
- The graduation of 24 Tasmanians with a lived experience through the accredited *Course in Consumer Leadership*, ensuring a vibrant state-wide network of people who are trained and ready to contribute to the leadership work of the independent organisation.
- The completion of more than 10 lived experience participation reviews and follow-up lived experience workshops with Tasmanian AOD service providers state-wide. These reviews and workshops provided organisations an opportunity to build on their practice to include the voice of lived experience and in doing so prepare them to engage with the independent organisation.
- The purposeful shift in terminology in the Tasmanian AOD sector away from 'consumer' to 'lived experience advocate', which has also been adopted by other Tasmanian community service and health sectors. While seemingly a simple action, this has contributed to reshaping the policy environment that the independent organisation will step into, ensuring it is appropriate and welcoming to the AOD lived experience perspective.
- Increased awareness-raising of the priority issues identified and delivered by people with lived experience through anti-stigma awareness sessions as well as sector forums and workshops. Increased demand for these opportunities has demonstrated an appetite for work in this space for the independent organisation.



Having lived experience on our executive and clinical committees gives us a dose of reality. While we understand problems from our point of view, that's in some ways irrelevant. It's their voice we need to hear from.

Alcohol and Drug Services,
Tasmanian Government

- The launch of the *Tasmanian Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Communications Charter*. The first of its kind in Australia, this work included the bespoke *ATDC Image guidelines* resource, with both publications developed alongside and featuring Tasmanians with lived experience. The Tasmanian Government is a signatory to the Charter, and this is another example of the meaningful advocacy work that the independent organisation would deliver.
- Commissioning the University of Tasmania to undertake an independent evaluation of the ATDC's lived experience projects, including focus on the work to establish the independent organisation. This evaluation confirmed that the work that has occurred has been appropriate and impactful and that an it is appropriate for an independent organisation to step in and lead this work.

In October 2022, the final piece of the ATDC's work was completed with the finalisation of a comprehensive business case detailing the overarching purpose, operational framework and funding and transition requirements for the independent organisation. This business case has been submitted alongside this Budget Priority Statement. A copy of the University of Tasmania's independent evaluation report brief has also been provided, confirming the unanimous support and need for the establishment of the independent organisation. Please read these attachments in conjunction with this budget priority statement.



Kyle (Lived Experience Advocate Service Coordinator, ATDC), Kerrie and Ella (ATDC Lived Experience Advocate Service)

¹ *Reform Agenda for the Alcohol and Other Drugs Sector in Tasmania* (2020) accessed online 05/10/2022. www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/mentalhealth/alcohol_and_drug/reform_agenda_for_ads

What would the independent organisation do?

Refer to the attached business case for a comprehensive overview of the purpose, and activities of the independent organisation. In summary, it will:

1. **Provide independent and state-wide leadership for Tasmanians with a lived experience of alcohol and other drug use** through advocacy and representation across all levels of government, community and other health sectors (e.g. mental health). In addition to developing and providing collective responses to policy and other planning initiatives, the independent organisation will have a critical role in providing expert advice into key AOD reform projects (e.g. the development of an AOD peer workforce and initiatives to respond to stigma).
2. **Be unique in the national context** in that it will not only provide a platform for people with lived experience of illicit drugs, but also people with a lived experience of alcohol.
3. **Work at the organisational / sector level** and fit within the array of existing services in the AOD sector, and broader health system without causing duplication or cross-over with existing organisations, services or programs.
4. **Continue to support capacity building for Tasmanians with a lived experience and the Tasmanian alcohol and other drug sector** through the ongoing delivery of the Lived Experience Advocate Service.

What difference would it make?

1. **Tasmanians with a lived experience of AOD use will be represented** in the priority issues of importance to them (including the work of the Reform Agenda).
2. **The views of Tasmanians with a lived experience of AOD use will be a key consideration** in the planning, development and implementation of relevant services, policies and legislation.
3. **Tasmanians with a lived experience of AOD will have a strong community of practice** and will be actively engaged in individual capacity building initiatives.
4. Tasmanians who choose to seek treatment for their AOD use will be **supported by a highly-qualified and effective workforce that includes peer support.**

How does this align to the Reform Agenda?

Reform Direction 1: A consumer client/consumer centred approach across the service system

Reform Direction 2: An integrated service system

Reform Direction 3: Developing service specifications and program guidelines

Reform Direction 6: Reducing stigma and discrimination

Attachments and further reading

atdc.org.au/atdc-budget-priority-statement-2023-2024

1. *The Business Case for an Independent Lived Experience Organisation for Tasmania's Alcohol and Other Drug Sector*, Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council Tasmania
2. *Briefing Paper on the proposed independent organisation*, Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies, University of Tasmania, Hobart, Tasmania
3. *How do we add the missing piece? An ATOD Consumer Representative Organisation for Tasmania Options Paper Summary*, Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council Tasmania

“

The IO will give those without a voice a chance to speak in settings and surroundings where they'd never have had a voice before.

ATDC Lived Experience Advocate



ATDC Lived Experience Advocates
Consumer Leadership Training 2020

6



Jo (ATDC Lived Experience Advocate Service)

Our sector at a glance

Thousands of Tasmanians have lived experience of alcohol and other drug use

There are 19 community-managed organisations that provide AOD services to the community.

While counselling is the main treatment accessed by Tasmanians, there are a range of other treatment options available.

There continues to be a steady increase in the number of Tasmanians seeking support for their AOD use.

Alcohol, cannabis and amphetamines are the top three primary drugs of concern, among many other substances.

An independent lived experience organisation is vital to represent the diverse perspectives of the growing number of Tasmanians with lived experience of AOD use.

“

I have so much more information regarding co-occurrence, lived experiences of people who have lived with alcohol and other drug addiction, I have a better understanding of services and the way people have to navigate the sector.

ATOD manager after attending a lived experience forum

Tasmanian community-managed organisations delivering specialist alcohol and other drug programs and services

- Advocacy Tasmania
- Alcohol and Drug Foundation
- Anglicare Tasmania
- Bethlehem House
- Cancer Council Tasmania
- Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation
- Drug Education Network
- Holyoake Tasmania
- Launceston City Mission
- Mental Health Families and Friends Tasmania
- Pathways Tasmania
- South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation
- Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre
- Tasmanian Council on AIDS, Hepatitis and Related Diseases
- The Hobart Clinic
- The Link Youth Health Service
- The Salvation Army Tasmania
- Wyndarra Centre
- Youth, Family & Community Connections

7

atdc

Alcohol, Tobacco and other
Drugs Council Tasmania

Suite 1, Level 1
175 Collins Street
Hobart, Tasmania
9am – 5pm weekdays

admin@atdc.org.au
03 6231 5002
PO Box 4702
Bathurst Street PO
Hobart TAS 7000

atdc.org.au



The ATDC is a Quality Innovation Performance (QIP) accredited organisation against the Australian Service Excellence Standards (ASES).

No Harm, No Discrimination