



A national alcohol and other drug quality framework brief 1: For AOD peak bodies' State, Territory and Australian health department contacts

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- The Australian Network of State and Territory Alcohol and Other Drug Peaks (the Network)'s vision is an Australian community with the lowest possible levels of alcohol, tobacco and other drug related harm, as a result of the alcohol, tobacco and other drug sector's evidence-informed prevention, treatment and harm reduction policies and services.
- The Network has decades of experience and expertise in supporting the development and delivery of high quality specialist alcohol and other drug services across Australia.
- The National Ice Action Strategy commits to "establish a new national treatment framework that clarifies government roles and improves planning across the sector, so that communities have the types of services they need".¹
- The Ministerial Drug and Alcohol Forum committed to "implement a quality framework to provide consistent and appropriate treatment in accordance with best practice".²
- The Australian Government has had two efforts at developing a quality framework for the AOD sector, with neither resulting in a product for the sector. There are significant opportunities to be learned from these experiences.
- In principle, the Network supports the development of a quality framework for the AOD sector - however it needs to be clear that a quality framework (e.g. focused on compliance and monitoring of evidence-informed practice) is different than accreditation (e.g. continuous quality improvement around systems management); and any future efforts to develop a quality framework should:
 - Be driven by the AOD sector, working in collaboration with health departments.
 - Involve from the beginning, leadership from the AOD peaks and the national AOD research centres; and be governed by a working group with these and other stakeholders (broader than government) that reports to the National Drug Strategy Committee with co-chairing arrangements shared between a non-government and a National Drug Strategy Committee representative.
 - Be aligned to and a component of, the National AOD Treatment Framework which should be developed first.
 - Be established and progressed as a project with clear deliverables including start and end dates with appropriate and additional resources.

For further information please contact your State or Territory AOD peak body.

¹ Australian Government (2015) National Ice Action Strategy. Canberra.

<https://www.coag.gov.au/sites/default/files/communique/2015%20National%20Ice%20Action%20Strategy.pdf>

² Ministerial Drug and Alcohol Forum Communiqué 16 December 2016,

[https://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/55E4796388E9EDE5CA25808F00035035/\\$File/MDAF%20Communiqué.pdf](https://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/55E4796388E9EDE5CA25808F00035035/$File/MDAF%20Communiqué.pdf)