

▶ CANBERRA ALLIANCE FOR HARM MINIMISATION AND ADVOCACY (CAHMA)

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Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA)

Provides a peer based users group run by and for past or current illicit/injecting drug users, their families and friends.

Phone:	(02) 6279 1670	
Fax:	(02) 6279 1610	
Mailing Address:	GPO Box 1552, Canberra City ACT 2601	
Email:	info@cahma.org.au	
Website:	www.aivl.org.au	
Location:	Level 1, Sydney Building, 112 – 116 Alinga Street, Canberra City	
Parent organisation:	Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL)	
Opening hours:	10am – 4pm, Monday – Friday	
Treatment approach:	Harm reduction	

ACCESS CRITERIA

Target Group: Current or past injecting/illicit drugs users of any age.

Area serviced: ACT and surrounding areas. Interstate residents are welcome.

Income required: No; however, support is provided to assist people to access income support.

Disability access: No.

Detox required before accessing program: No.

Documentation required: No.

Medication: People accessing the service can be on prescription medications, including pharmacotherapies.

Parents with accompanying children: Yes, children are welcome under the supervision of parents or carers.

Couples: Yes.

HOW TO ACCESS / REFERRALS

Contact: By phone or drop-in, 10am – 4pm, Monday – Friday.

Referral: No referrals necessary.

Waiting list: No waiting list.

INTAKE AND ASSESSMENT

Workers are available from 10am – 4pm, Monday – Friday.

PROGRAM/S

Provides a peer based users group run by and for past or current illicit/injecting drug users, their families and friends. Represents the interests of drug users and promotes improved health and reduction of harms associated with illicit/injecting drug use through peer based education workshops, information and policy development. Peer support, advocacy, education, information, and referrals are also provided.

Provides consultancy/assistance and training upon request to alcohol and other drug services and other organisations on issues relating to illicit/injecting drug use.

CAHMA also provides:

Pharmacotherapy Advocacy and Action Team (PHAAT):

A group for pharmacotherapy (methadone or buprenorphine including Subutex and Suboxone) consumers that meets at 4pm, on the last Thursday of each month. Snacks and drinks provided. Provides peer support, information, education, and advocacy for issues related to pharmacotherapy treatment. PHAAT aims to improve treatment service provision, provides representation for consumers on decision making forums and provides assistance for consumers to achieve positive outcomes from their treatment. Support is provided to assist people in accessing treatment, and advocacy is provided for consumers experiencing any difficulties with their treatment.

Peer Education Program:

Provides peer education groups run by and for past or current illicit/injecting drug users and pharmacotherapy consumers. Topics for harm reduction education workshops include: blood borne viruses; sexual health; overdose prevention; safer injecting; drug treatments; mental health; and comorbidity. Consultations and focus groups for consumers to input into local and national policy development activities are facilitated, and the program actively promotes health and human rights for drug users.

Radio Show "News from the Drug War Front":

A weekly radio show from 11am on Tuesdays on community radio 2XX 98.3 FM. Reports the latest news about drug use, prohibition politics, health messages, and CAHMA updates. The show is presented by CAHMA staff and volunteers.

Treatment Support Service:

Provides information, support and referral for people accessing drug treatments or those considering entering treatment. Information and support provided for people to access detoxification, rehabilitation or opioid treatment programs in the ACT or interstate. This peer support program provides information on the range of treatment options available, assists people to make informed treatment choices and provides referral and support in accessing treatment services. The service promotes consumer rights and advocates on behalf of people having treatment difficulties.

The Connection: (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program of CAHMA)

Provides peer based support services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and other people who are past or present illicit/injecting drug users in the ACT and surrounding area (see next profile).

COMORBIDITY

Provides comorbidity and mental health specific information and referrals. Education sessions on mental health related topics are provided in partnership with specialist mental health services. Referral and support can be provided for people to access mental health services through the *Better Access Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Initiative*. Staff undertake Mental Health First Aid and PsyCheck training.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER

Provides a specific Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program (see next profile). All staff undertake training on working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in drug users' organisations. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific information and referrals are provided.

CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE

Provides limited culturally and linguistically diverse resources and referrals.

TOBACCO MANAGEMENT

Smoking cessation information and resources are offered. Referrals may be provided for tobacco management advice and support.

COST

Free for consumers.
Fees for consultancy/training and assistance to community organisations are negotiable.

STAFF

Alcohol and Other Drug Indigenous Peer Support Worker, Alcohol and Other Drug Peer Education Workers, Policy and Advocacy Worker and Treatment Support Worker.

FAMILIES/CARERS

Families and carers can access some CAHMA programs.

The Connection, Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA)

Provides a peer based support program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and other people who are past or present illicit/injecting drug users, their families and friends.

Phone:	(02) 6279 1671 or (02) 6279 1670
Fax:	(02) 6279 1610
Mailing Address:	GPO Box 1552, Canberra City ACT 2601
Email:	theconnection@cahma.org.au
Location:	Level 1, Sydney Building, 112 – 116 Alinga Street, Canberra City
Parent organisation:	Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL)
Opening hours:	10am – 4pm, Monday – Friday
Treatment approach:	Harm reduction



ACCESS CRITERIA

Target Group: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and other people who are current or past injecting/illicit drug users.

Area serviced: ACT and surrounding areas. Interstate residents are welcome.

Income required: No; however, support is provided to assist people to access income support.

Disability access: No.

Detox required before accessing program: No.

Documentation required: No.

Medication: People accessing the service can be on prescription medications, including pharmacotherapies.

Parents with accompanying children: Yes, children are welcome under the supervision of parents or carers.

Couples: Yes.

HOW TO ACCESS / REFERRALS

Contact: By phone or drop-in, 10am – 4pm, Monday – Friday.

Referral: No referral necessary.

Waiting list: No waiting list.

INTAKE AND ASSESSMENT

Workers are available from 10am – 4pm, Monday – Friday.

PROGRAM/S

Peer Education and Support Service:

Provides a peer based support program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are past or present illicit/injecting drug users, their families and friends. Services are tailored to meet the specific needs and issues of the community. Peer education, referral, advocacy, and support is provided to access ATOD treatment programs, sexual health information/services, blood borne virus (BBV) information/services and other health and welfare services. Peer education workshops are held regularly on a range of topics including reducing ATOD related harm and health promotion.

Family BBQ and Art Group:

The *Deadly Family BBQ* and *Art Attack*, held fortnightly 12.30pm to 3.30pm at Boomerang Centre, Currong Flats is a social event for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and families; with a focus on healthy lunches and Indigenous art lessons. The BBQ promotes social inclusion, cultural celebrations and harm reduction education. Provides support and education on health issues affecting the community, including the provision of education sessions from health experts and services.

COMORBIDITY

Provides comorbidity and mental health specific information and referrals. Education sessions on mental health related topics are provided in partnership with specialist mental health services. Referral and support can be provided for people to access mental health services through the *Better Access Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Initiative*. Staff undertake Mental Health First Aid and PsyCheck training.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER

Programs designed and delivered specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE

Provides limited culturally and linguistically diverse resources and referrals.

TOBACCO MANAGEMENT

Smoking cessation information and resources are offered. Referrals may be provided for tobacco management advice and support.

COST

Free.

STAFF

One part-time Indigenous Peer Support Worker.

FAMILIES/CARERS

Families and carers can access some programs.