

# Victorian AOD Service Providers Conference

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**Mental Health and Wellbeing Division**

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Department  
of Health

**OFFICIAL**

# Our shared challenges and opportunities

This financial year we will work to address some of the sectors most significant and enduring challenges

Working to reduce preventable drug harms as a priority

Responding to a demand by standing up new services + supporting AOD capability across sectors

Addressing the immediate and longer-term sustainability of areas in need

Concurrent reforms as an opportunity to strengthen cross-system interoperability

Fatal overdoses have grown

**47 per cent**  
since 2010.

5,392 Victorians  
lost.<sup>1</sup>

## Pharmacotherapy:

On a snapshot day in 2021,  
nearly **15,000** clients and  
just over **1000** prescribers...

1. Coroners Court of Victoria. *Victorian Overdose Deaths 2012-2021*. (2022).

2. National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data Collection, 2021.

# Supported by the 2023-24 State Budget outcomes

The 2023-24 State Budget invests an additional \$255.1 million over four years and \$13.4 million ongoing in Victorian AOD services. This investment will:

Maintain **AOD system capacity** and **expand our harm reduction responses**

Establish services to support the **decriminalisation of public drunkenness** (\$78.7 million over three years )

Support the establishment of **treatment services for Victorian workers** (\$12 million over two years)

A **health-based response** will be introduced in Nov 2023 following decriminalisation of **public intoxication**, including:

Dedicated **outreach** and **places of safety** for Aboriginal people in metro and regional Vic + **outreach and a sobering centre** in metro Melbourne for the general population.

**2023-24  
State Budget  
outcomes**

# Including expansion of our critical harm reduction responses

**Continuation of medically supervised injecting services** in North Richmond (\$45.1 million over four years) and related outreach services in North Richmond and in the CBD (\$11.7 million over two years)

**Expanding access to Naloxone** (\$6.2 million over four years)

**Early warning surveillance** to support timely public health advice (\$4.5 million over four years)

**Over 6000 overdoses** have been managed within MSIR, with **zero fatalities**.

Modelling indicates that up to **63 deaths have been prevented**.

More than 3300 referrals have been to wrap around supports, including more than **800 clients commencing opioid pharmacotherapy** treatment.

**2023-24  
State Budget  
outcomes**

# And support for the fundamental components of our treatment system

Maintain **residential rehabilitation and withdrawal capacity** (\$65.4 million over four years and \$13.4 million ongoing)

**Stabilising and improving access** to Victoria's opioid pharmacotherapy program (\$9.9 million over two years)

**A new AOD workforce pipeline** (\$10.7 million over two years).

**Community-based treatment** for people involved in the criminal justice system + addressing the intersection between family violence and AOD (\$3.4 million over four years)

This outcome allows us to **address areas of urgent need** + review how we invest in and **deliver this critical treatment**. We are also working with the Commonwealth on the implementation of dispensing fee subsidies

**2023-24  
State Budget  
outcomes**

# With continued work toward sustainability

Implementation of activity associated with State Budget outcomes and options to address the immediate and long-term viability and sustainability of the AOD system, including:

- Addressing key systemic challenges
- Supporting systems and services to deliver integrated care
- Continued partnership with the AOD sector, working together to create a sustainable and thriving AOD system

For opportunities to contribute your AOD experience and expertise to the reforms go to:

[www.health.vic.gov.au/mental-health-wellbeing-reform/calendar-of-engagement-opportunities](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/mental-health-wellbeing-reform/calendar-of-engagement-opportunities)

To stay up to date with forthcoming engagement opportunities and subscribe for fortnightly updates: [mentalhealth@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:mentalhealth@health.vic.gov.au)



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