

# NO RIGHT DOOR

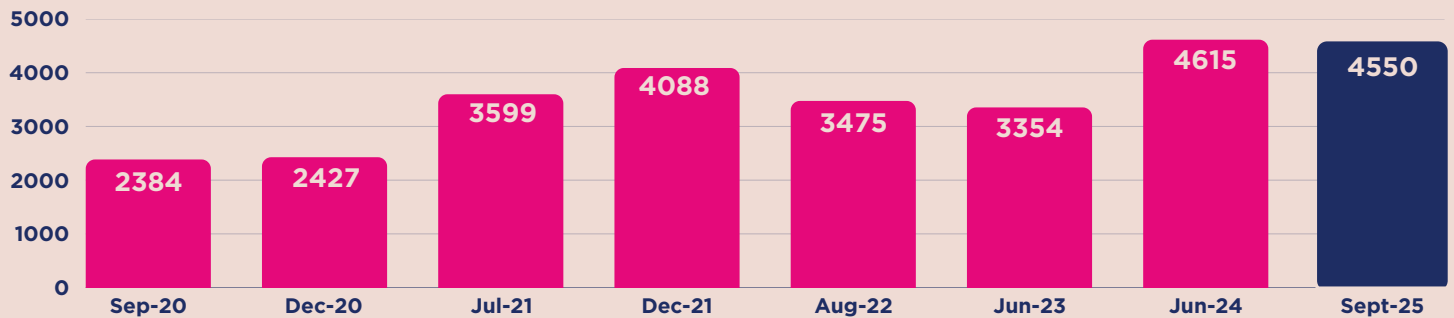
## AOD TREATMENT SYSTEM OVERWHELMED BY CHRONIC DEMAND

Demand for alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment in Victoria continues to exceed supply, making access to help unachievable for many.

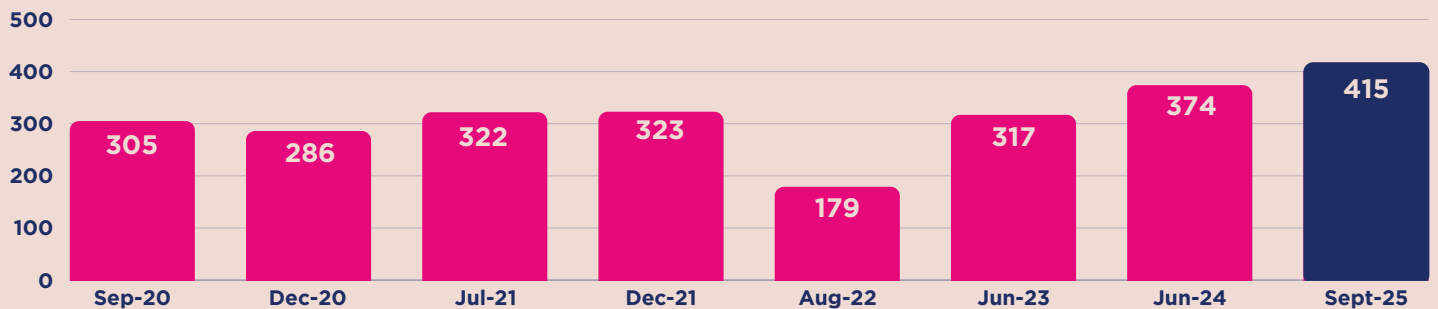


42 funded AOD agencies participated in VAADA's 8<sup>th</sup> Treatment Demand Survey, revealing that on any given day in **September 2025, 4550 people were waiting for AOD treatment in Victoria.**

### Number of people waiting for treatment in Victoria



### Number of young people waiting for treatment in Victoria



### Key drivers of surging treatment demand include

Greater availability of illicit substances, exacerbated by a modern and evolving unregulated online market.

Persistent sector challenges, such as ongoing instability of the opioid pharmacotherapy system and stigma, are preventing people from seeking help early.

Limitations identified in our report **'Care and Complexity: Towards a re-designed Victorian AOD Service System'**<sup>1</sup> including capacity constraints, problematic entry points, service bottlenecks and limited capability to meet the needs of high risk cohorts.

In 2025

# 1858

people **were waiting in Intake and Assessment**, double the number in 2020

AOD treatment provides a **return on investment** through **reducing the need for acute health and law and order interventions**<sup>2</sup>

Youth treatment demand in 2025 is

# 33%

**higher** than the average of 301 since 2022

[1] VAADA, 2024, <https://www.vaada.org.au/care-and-complexity-towards-a-re-designed-victorian-aod-service-system/>

[2] Every \$1 invested in AOD treatment returns \$7 through reduced pressure on hospitals and the justice system.