

2026 Victorian AOD Service Providers Conference

Shaping the Future of AOD: Culture Connection and Innovation

Registration	Registrations, Tea and Coffee			8.30am - 9.30am
Welcome & Minister's Address	Welcome Clare Davies Acting President, VAADA			9.30am - 9.35am
	Welcome to Country Uncle Tony Garvey			9.35am - 9.40am
	Minister's Address The Hon. Ingrid Stitt Minister for Government Services, Minister of State, Minister for Ageing, Mental Health, Multicultural and Multifaith Victoria			9.40am - 9.50am
Updates	VAADA Update Strategic Plan Launch Chris Christoforou Chief Executive Officer, Victorian Alcohol & Drug Association (VAADA)			9.50am - 10.05am
	Department of Health Update Pam Anders Deputy Secretary, Mental Health and Wellbeing			10.05am - 10.20am
	Keynote: On Integrating Associate Professor Sophie Adams Chief Psychiatrist of Victoria			10.20am - 11.00am
Morning Tea	Celtic Hall / Exhibitor Space (Ground Level)			11.00am - 11.30am
Presentation	Integrating SEWB in Mainstream Practice Sheree Lowe Executive Director Balit Durn Durn			11.30am - 12.00pm
Move to Breakouts	Main Plenary Room (Ground Level) Studio Rooms (Level 1)			12.00pm - 12.05pm
Breakout Themes	Culture, Care and Stigma: Towards Culturally Safe and Stigma-Free Care (Main Plenary MC Daniel Wilson)	Innovation and Experience (Studio 3 & 4 MC Gillian Clark)	Research (Studio 7 & 8 MC Sara Voegtline)	
Breakout session 1	Baringurrak (Our Journey) A Bendigo & District Aboriginal Co-Operative (BDAC) Program Celeste Hamilton BDAC Dawson Thomas BDAC Christopher McGhee BDAC Danny Fawkner BDAC	The Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility: Accommodation and Wraparound Support for Men Leaving Prison Suzi James-Nevell Jesuit Social Services Kerstin Hinrichsen Corrections Victoria	Intervention Opportunities for People Who Drive Under the Influence of Drugs Michael Savic Turning Point and Eastern Health	12.05pm - 12.25pm
		From Station to Sobriety: Rethinking Recovery Through Unlikely Partnerships Damian Anderson South East Community Links Marcia Harkins South East Community Links	Guanfacine as a Treatment for Problematic Cannabis Use Among Young People Aged 15-21 in Residential Youth Withdrawal Settings Dr Alex Guerin Orygen TBC YSAS	12.25pm - 12.45pm
Lunch	Celtic Hall / Exhibitor Space (Ground Level)			12.50pm - 1.30pm
Breakout Themes	Culture, Care and Stigma: Towards Culturally Safe and Stigma-Free Care (Main Plenary MC Scott Drummond)	Innovation and Experience (Studio 3 & 4 MC Oscar Grano)	Research (Studio 7 & 8 MC Jane Moreton)	
Breakout session 2	Panel Discussion AOD Raise it Campaign: A Multi-Year Multi-Media Strategy to Reduce Stigma Amelia Berg Harm Reduction Victoria Nyachan Nyak NAS Recovery Centre Angelo Pricolo Pharmacist Dr Owen Harris General Practitioner	GHB: Treatment Guidelines Project Vic Manning Turning Point	Starting the Conversation: Person-Centred Benzodiazepine Deprescribing in General Practice Erin Oldenhoff Reconnexion (Each) Petra Staiger Deakin University	1.30pm - 1.50pm
		Risks and GHB Liam Neale Harm Reduction Victoria	Understanding What Makes Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Work for LGBTQ+ People Dr Adrian Farrugia La Trobe University	1.50pm - 2.10pm
Move to Main Plenary	Main Plenary Room (Ground Level)			2.20pm - 2.25pm
Presentation	Use of AI in AOD and Social Services Roisin McNaney Associate Professor, Digital Health, School of Computing and Information Systems University of Melbourne			2.25pm - 3.05pm
Event Close	Wrap Up, Thank You and Farewell to Jane Moreton			3.10pm