

# Call for abstracts

**Risky Business:**  
**MYKYK** AUSTRALIAN WINTER SCHOOL | 2026

A professional development event  
for people who work with people  
who use alcohol and other drugs



## The 2026 Conference

The theme for the 2026 Australian Winter School (AWS2026) is Risky Business: IYKYK.

Picking up on the current vibe of 90's nostalgia, we are highlighting the inherently risky business of the AOD sector across research, policy, treatment and harm reduction relating to alcohol and other drugs (if you know, you know).

With a focus on innovative practice and new ideas, the conference will have something for everyone.

**Our workforce** – increasing skills, knowledge, and collaboration potential while gaining greater awareness of trends and issues to develop your practice and career potential

**External partners** – connecting and sharing with health and other professionals whose work intersects with the alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment space.

**The community** – exchanging views and experiences on how the AOD sector has been and is responsive to challenges and needs to identify opportunities that enhance recovery experiences for people and their families.

The conference will be held at Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre from 19 to 21 August 2026.

Australian Winter School is presented by the Queensland Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies (QNADA).



## There's something for everyone – our 2026 streams

The program will include plenary and multiple concurrent sessions on a range of issues. Within the breakout session streams, we will showcase the following:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
- LGBTIQ+ Sistergirl and Brotherboy
- peer work
- lived/living experience
- health equity
- service integration
- drug law reform
- cross-sector collaboration
- workforce
- rural and remote
- youth
- medication-assisted treatment
- pharmaceuticals
- primary health
- acute care
- early intervention
- outcomes
- community development
- client participation and engagement
- mental health
- criminal justice
- technology and treatment
- substance types (opioids, hallucinogens, alcohol, cannabis, tobacco, amphetamines)
- non-harmful use
- stigma and discrimination
- performance enhancing drugs.



## Invitation

We invite you to consider making a 20 minute presentation (which includes five minutes of question time) during a concurrent session.

We are looking for conference speakers to inspire delegates and introduce them to new ideas and ways of thinking and working.

We welcome abstract submissions from people who:

- are involved in delivering innovative evidence-based AOD programs and services
- have new and ground-breaking research to report on that has direct relevance to harm reduction and treatment
- have an example of an effective prevention, early intervention, or health promotion program
- are involved in an innovative area of AOD policy
- have a lived or living experience with AOD use

Submit your application on one of the templates provided by 5.00pm on **31 March 2026** to:

Alysha Bleney  
Director, Policy and Programs  
Email: [Alysha.Bleney@qnada.org.au](mailto:Alysha.Bleney@qnada.org.au)



## Criteria

All submissions will be reviewed against the following criteria:

- Audience – relevance to AWS2026 audience
- Themes – relevance to the AWS2026 overarching theme and topics
- Quality – appropriate educational, evaluation, or research methodology and clarity
- Content – presenting new work or building upon existing work (new news; not old).

Key dates	
10 February 2026	Registration opens
19 February 2026	Call for abstracts open
31 March 2026	Call for abstracts close
1 April – 24 April 2026	Panel review abstract submissions
30 April 2026	Early Bird registration closes
4-8 May 2026	Presenters advised of abstract outcomes
19-21 August 2026	Conference

## General guidelines

The following points should be noted:

- Abstracts will be subject to peer review.
- Acceptance or otherwise is at the discretion of the organising committee whose decision is final.
- Refer to the template on the conference webpage for the abstract layout.
- All presenting authors must register and pay to attend the AWS2026 conference to be eligible to present. We are unable to advertise speakers in the conference program until they have registered and paid in full.
- Submission of an abstract implies the author's agreement to publish their abstract in the final conference program handbook.
- Successful abstracts must be presented by the author/s or a nominated co-author.
- The AWS2026 Organising Committee reserves the right to reject abstracts which do not include sufficient information.